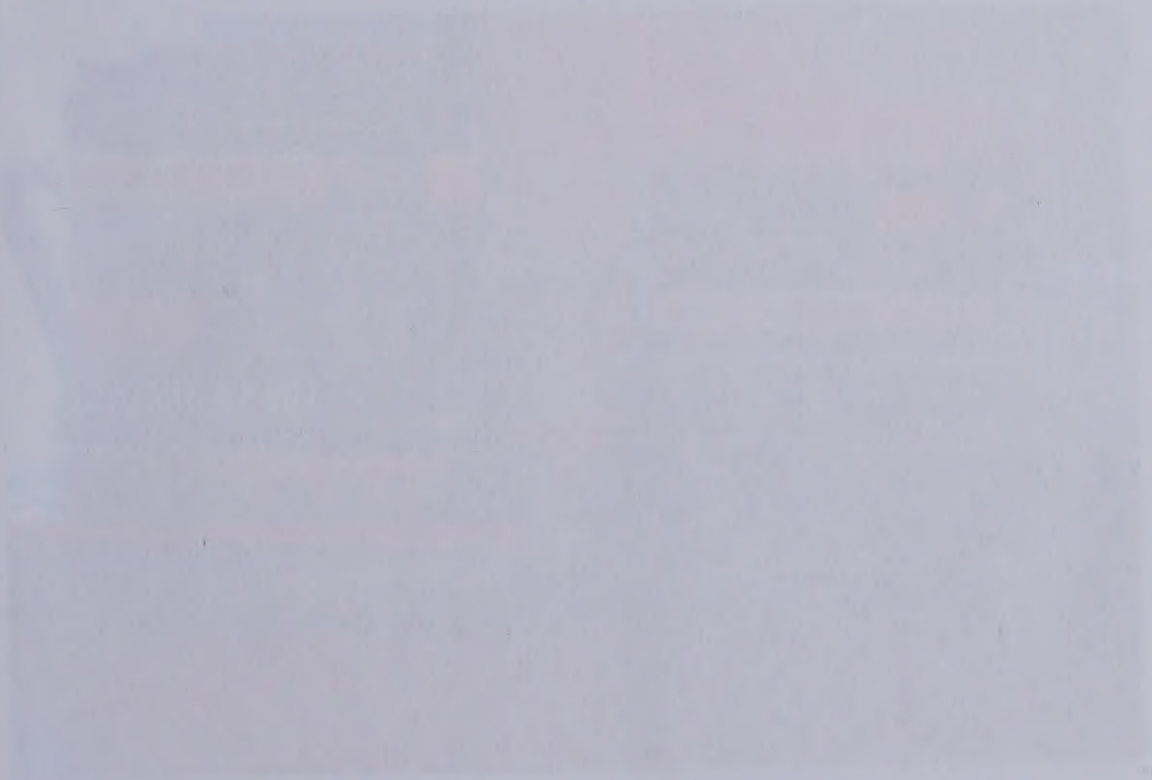


# Case Family Matters

Stories about the Effect of the Civil War on the  
Case Family of Simsbury Connecticut



Richard Case, Editor



# Case Family Matters

Stories about the Effect of the Civil War on the  
Case Family of Simsbury Connecticut



Richard Converse, Editor







**8th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry Regiment:**

Organized at Hartford September 21, 1861.

Left State for Annapolis, Md., October 17.

Attached to Parke's Third Brigade, Burnside's Expeditionary Corps, to April, 1862. 1st Brigade, 3rd Division, Dept. of North Carolina, to July, 1862.

Duty at Annapolis, Md., until January 6, 1862.

Burnside's expedition to Hatteras Inlet

Roanoke Island, N. C., January 7-February 8, 1862.

Battle of Roanoke Island February 8.

At Roanoke Island until March 11.

Moved to New Berne, N. C., March 11-13.

Battle of New Berne March 14.

Operations against Fort Macon March 23-April 26.

Skirmish Fort Macon April 12. Capture of Fort Macon April 26.

Duty at New Berne until July.

Moved to Morehead City July 2,

Then to Newport News, Va., July 3-5 and duty there until August 1.

Moved to Fredericksburg, Va., August 1-5 and duty there until August 31.

Moved to Brooks' Station,

Then to Washington, D.C., August 31-September 3.

Maryland Campaign September-October Frederick, Md., September 12. Turner's Gap

South Mountain, September 14.

Battle of Antietam September 16-17.





## Family Matters

### Introduction

#### The Case Family of Simsbury, Connecticut

The President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln, made an impassioned plea in 1861 and again in 1862 for more volunteers for the United States Union Army to join the fight with the Confederates.

This story is primarily about three young men, the author's third cousins, who were brothers that volunteered to join the Connecticut Volunteer Infantry. The youngest, Oliver Cromwell Case, joined the Eighth Regiment in 1861. The two older brothers, Ariel Job Case and Alonzo Grove Case, joined the Sixteenth Regiment in 1862.

In the United States, genealogy and history has always been and is more blended today. Many societies have been named Genealogy or Historical Society. Not many are named Genealogy and Historic. One of the first was formed when a group of men met in 1844 in Boston to discuss a blend of genealogy and history. They chose the name New England Historical and Genealogical Society. However, in March 1845 its name was changed to New England Historic Genealogical Society. Today it is still a vibrant and viable source of historical and genealogy information.

This story is about the genealogy of the Case family and their place in the history of the Civil War, Simsbury history and the Case family history. The history of a family; and especially in this family, genealogy, family history and Civil War history, are intertwined and will be discussed throughout this publication.

The Case brothers' service in the Civil War played a significant part in the outcome of their life, death, and that of their parents and even a younger sister.

This documentary is primarily about these brothers during and after the Civil War. A few generals and perhaps a few iconic figures will be included in this Civil War story but its primary focus will be on the events in the battles and the effect it had on their lives and their family's lives.





My three tours of Antietam Battlefield has provided sufficient background on the battle in the southern part of the battlefield. This is where the Eighth Regiment, Oliver Cromwell Case's Regiment, and Sixteenth Regiment, Ariel Job and Alonzo Grove Case's Regiment fought. During my visits many photographs were taken of the battlefield, monuments, plaques, and structures. This story will include several photographs of them.

Two visits to Simsbury, Connecticut, the home town of this family and these three brothers, were extremely helpful. The first visit was when I first "met" Oliver Cromwell Case. The Simsbury Historical Society had in their archives thirty-three letters that Oliver had written to his younger sister, Abby. When I saw the letters I knew they provided his firsthand experiences. I had to have transcribed copies of them. I obtained copies of these letters and they became the inspiration for the first part of this book. He was a Private and his letters give an insight into a regular soldier's travels, experiences, the battles he participated in, and life during his one year of service.

The next visit included research at Simsbury Free Library, Simsbury Town Clerk, Simsbury Historical Society, and Simsbury Public Library. All of these were extremely helpful and provided additional information that is included in this story.

I have corresponded with representatives of the Simsbury Historical Society. I received from there many newspaper articles especially about Oliver and about other family matters. This information will be included in this publication.

While I was in Simsbury a meeting was arranged by a representative of Simsbury Historical Society at their office on Hop Meadow Road. This is where I met the great granddaughter of Alonzo Grove Case. Later she invited my wife and me to her home where she showed us antiques, artifacts and photographs from and about Alonzo Case. The home had been Alonzo Case's in the 1800s.

I have purchased many books that reference the battle at Antietam and the histories of the Eighth Regiment and the Sixteenth Regiments. These were used to provide histories and personal stories about the battles these brothers and their Regiments participated in.







A letter written to the National Archives Museum in Washington, D.C. provided the opportunity to collect all three of the Case brother's pension records. There were documents and sworn testimonies that shows insight into the personal lives of these men and their father. Job Case, the father of these young men, requested and received a pension for his son, Oliver's, service. The wife of Ariel requested and received a pension based on his service. Alonzo received his pension and then his wife requested and received a pension after his passing based on his service.

A later visit to the Archives in 2015 provided significant information about Oliver's, Ariel's and Alonzo's military records: Muster in information, their physical description, promotions, duties, illnesses, leaves of absence, imprisonment, special duties, death and muster out information.

Research on the internet has provided maps of the battles that these Case brothers participated in, officer's reports of these same battles, stories about the regimental histories, and personal stories of the these and other Union and Confederate soldiers.

This has been a unique opportunity and an educational endeavor to study these three young men, their parents, and to study how the Civil War experience affected all of their lives.

The horror of the battles the generals expected their soldiers to endure. For them to see the death of fellow soldiers; many of whom were friends that lived near their home; as they lined up in battle formation and marched toward the enemy. Then for the surviving soldiers expected to go down on to battle field after the fighting quieted to find their brothers and friends wounded or dead. Then assisting in the burial of the fallen and to help the wounded get medical help.

The Civil War was a tragic experience for the soldiers, their families and for the country. Not just when they were involved in the war but for many after the war. The trauma they experienced after the war has been described as Soldier's Heart by many. The experiences during battles, the death, wounds, the illnesses, the amputations and the difficulties experienced after the war were similar in the North as well as in the South.



## Family Matters

The author is not educated in literature or historic composition. He is however interested in Family Genealogy and *Family Matters*, and has been for nearly 20 years. His training and experience was in Management, Accounting and Business. Therefore, he wants this story to be as accurate as possible, so he has approached each story trying to make them as true and accurate as he can based on the detailed information that his research made available.

Why title the book *Family Matters*? The author's perspective from over 150 years ago may not be perfect; but what he has read and studied about the Case family and the regiments that these Case brothers were in convinced him that *Family Matters* to each one of them.

*Family Matters* is true on several levels:

First, *Family Matters* as told in family stories, family genealogy and family history should be recorded for future generations or they will be lost and forgotten forever. This endeavor tries to show that *Family Matters* to the Case family from Simsbury, Connecticut and that they had concern for each other.

Second, Oliver Cromwell Case was a private in the 8th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry (C. V. I.) Regiment in the Civil War in 1861 and 1862. In his letters to his sister you will see his concern for his younger sister and we see *Family Mattered* to him. He inquired about his family back home. This story will include his military and pension records that were obtained from the National Archives in Washington, DC. Also, his letters showed that he had compassion for his fellow soldiers especially in their death; some were friends from Connecticut, because they mattered to him.

Also, Alonzo Grove Case showed that *Family Matters*. He was interested in his family. He cared about what happened to his fellow soldiers on the battle field and





to his younger brother. After he enlisted in the 16th C. V. I. in 1862 he showed love for his wife and for his father and mother. His military and pension records were obtained from the National Archives and will be included in his story. He demonstrated that *Family Matters* when he requested a leave of absence to go home because his father was ill. He showed *Family Matters* were important when he helped his father get his home back and how he helped him receive Oliver's pension. He documented in his *Recollections* of his military experience and as a Confederate prisoner of war during the Civil War. His writings and in letters home showed *Family Matters*. His mother and father's welfare mattered to him during the war as well as after.

Finally, the author does not know much about the oldest brother, Ariel Job Case. He also joined the 16th C. V. I. in 1862. The author will tell some of his story as best as he can. His story will include military records and pension records that were obtained from the National Archives. While Alonzo was in prison Ariel sent him a package of clothing showing his compassion for his brother's welfare and that *Family Matters* were important to him.

Ten years after the end of the Civil War, in 1875, he died a tragic death many miles from home and family in Ohio. The author believes Ariel's death is as modern as what soldiers are suffering from today. Back in the mid-1860s it was called Soldier's Heart.

The author will attempt to show how his interest in this family's *Family Matters* is truly a story worth telling and reading. He hopes you will enjoy reading it. It is a story about the Case family in Simsbury, Connecticut. The Cases were in my maternal genealogical line. The three brother are the author's third cousins four times removed.

date



Alonzo Grove Case was mustered into the 16th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry as a Private on August 7, 1862.

Before he left his wife, Julia Chaffee Case, he wrote a note to her in a family memory book. It is in the possession of Alonzo's great granddaughter, Charlotte Bidwell Bacon. As he wrote these words he never could have realized the horrors of the Civil War he would have to experience; the death of his younger brother and his capture and imprisonment for over 10 months. He wrote:

*"To my Wife"*

*"Life's journey is a weary one. We are called to pass through many afflictions, but these trials are nothing if we but put our trust in God. We may be called to separate in this life but we know there is a future that we shall soon pass into where there will be no parting. Whenever you chance to look at these lines think of this, and look well to your own salvation."*

*"Simsbury Aug. 16, 1862*

*Your Husband*

*A. G. Case"*



## Oliver C. Case Story Index

Case Family—Ancestry Chart

Case Family Military Record

8th Regiment Connecticut Infantry

8th Regiment Memorial Marker

Eighth Regiment Connecticut Infantry

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Ch. 3—Long Island

4—On to Annapolis

Letter in Oliver's Handwriting

Ch. 5—Preparing for Battle

Ch. 6—General Burnside's Expedition

Ch. 7—Fortress Monroe—Aboard Schooner

Ch. 8—Battle at Roanoke Island

Ch. 9—Approaching New Berne, NC

Graphic of Invasion of New Berne

Ch. 10—Battle at New Berne, NC

Ch. 11—Operation against Fort Monroe

Ch. 12—Bouge Island, NC

Ch. 13—Back to New Berne, NC

Ch. 14—Fredericksburg, VA

Ch. 15—Approaching Antietam

Ch. 16—Battle from Charles Buell's Diary

Ch. 17—Conclusion





## Oliver C. Case Story Index

Epilogue—Davis's Flight

Appendix—Family Group Summary

Map of Antietam Battlefield

Oliver's Death and Burial

Oliver's Grave Markers

Oliver's Bible

Hop Meadow Cemetery

Case Family Grave Markers—Simsbury

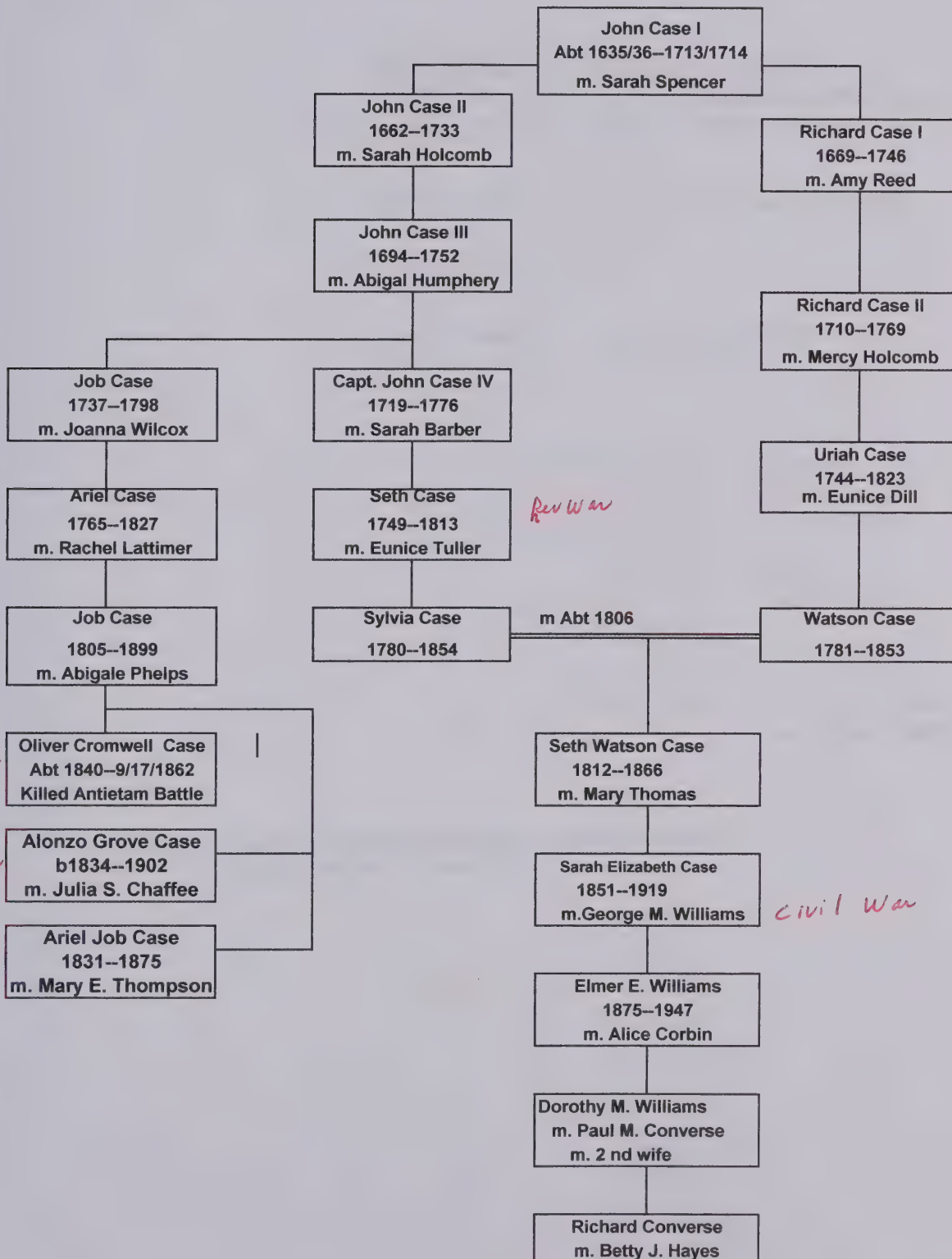
Job Case's Request for Oliver's Pension

Oliver C. Case GAR Camp



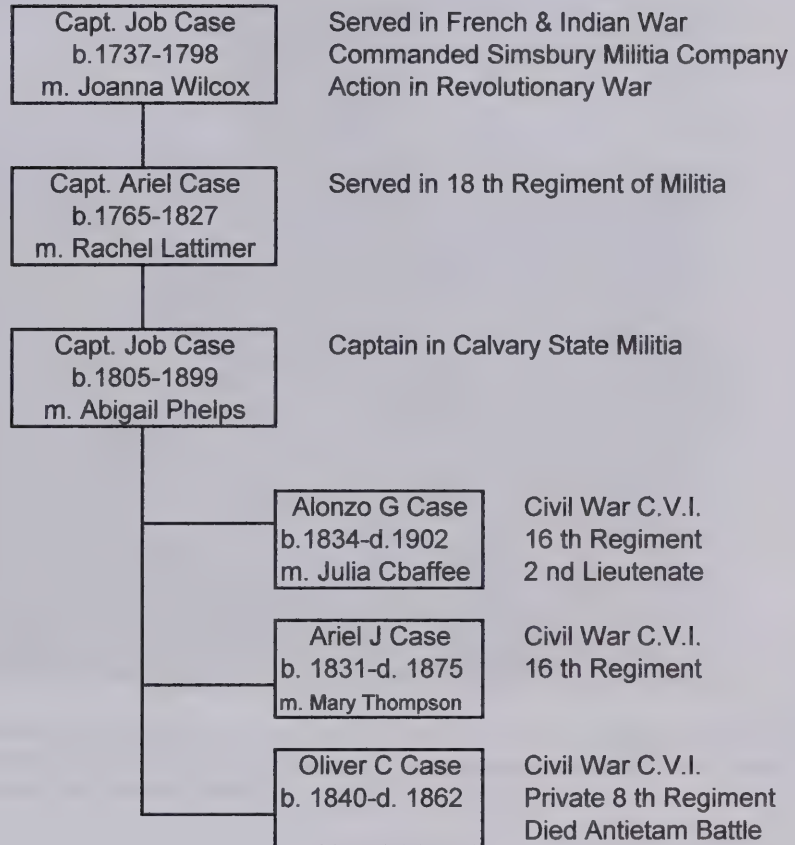


# Case Families Ancestry Chart





## Case Family Military Service



Source: Simsbury Genealogical & Historical Research Library  
Volume 13 Issue 4, Winter 2006-07







Private Oliver Case was killed near this spot on September 17, 1862. This was the "high water mark" for Union forces at the battle of Antietam. The 8th was alone fighting the Confederates as the remainder of Harland's Brigade had failed to advance beyond the 40-acre cornfield.





Dedicated on October 8, 1894, the 8th Connecticut Infantry monument at Antietam is located on the south end of the Battlefield, east of at Harpers Ferry Road near the [9th New York Monument](#). ([see map](#))

From the front of the monument:

*8th Conn.  
Vol. Infantry  
2d Brig.  
3d Div.  
9th Corps.  
Advanced position*

From the rear of the monument:

*8th Conn. V.I.  
No. Engaged - 400  
Killed and Wounded - 194*

The 8th Connecticut was commanded by Lt. Colonel Hiram Appleman until he was wounded, then by Major John E. Ward. The regiment charged McIntosh's Confederate battery along the Harpers Ferry Road and forced the gunners to abandon their pieces, but it was not supported and its exposed position opened it to fire from both flanks.

The 8th lost 34 killed, 139 wounded and 21 missing, over 50% of the men engaged. The entire color party were shot down, but the colors were carried from the field by Private Charles Walker, with the hundred survivors retiring in good formation.

See more on the [8th Connecticut Infantry Regiment](#) >

[Connecticut monuments](#) • [next](#) >



**Summary of Service**  
**Eighth Connecticut Volunteer Infantry**  
**Organization to Antietam**

Organization at Hartford		9/21/1861
Left State—Ordered to Annapolis		10/17/1861
Duty at Annapolis	Until	1/6/1862
Burnside's Expedition to Hatteras		1/7 to 2/8/1862
Battle of Roanoke Island		2/8/1862
Duty at Roanoke Island	Until	3/11/1862
Moved to New Berne, NC (3)		3/11 to 3/13/1862
Battle of New Berne (3)		3/14/1862
Operation against Fort Macon (4)		3/23 to 4/26/1862
Skirmish at Fort Macon (4)		4/12/1862
Capture of Fort Macon (4)		4/26/1862
Duty at New Berne until July (3)	Until	July
Moved to Morehead City		7/2/1862
Moved to Newport News, VA (5)		7/2/1862
Duty at Newport News, VA (5)	Until	8/1/1862
Moved to Fredericksburg, VA (6)		8/1 to 8/5/1862
Duty at Fredericksburg, VA (6)	Until	8/31/1862
Moved to Brook's Station		8/3 to 9/3/1862
Moved to Washington, DC		
Moved to Frederick, VA (7)		
At Turner's Gap, South Mountain, MD (8)		9/14/1862
Battle of Antietam Battlefield (9)		8/16 to 8/17/1862
Oliver C. Case Killed at Antietam Battlefield (9)		8/17/1862
Oliver C. Case Buried near Otto Farmhouse (9)		8/19/1862
Job Case Exhumed Oliver's Remains (9)		Dec, 1862

(\*) See Map for Location





Eighth Connecticut Infantry

9.7  
8

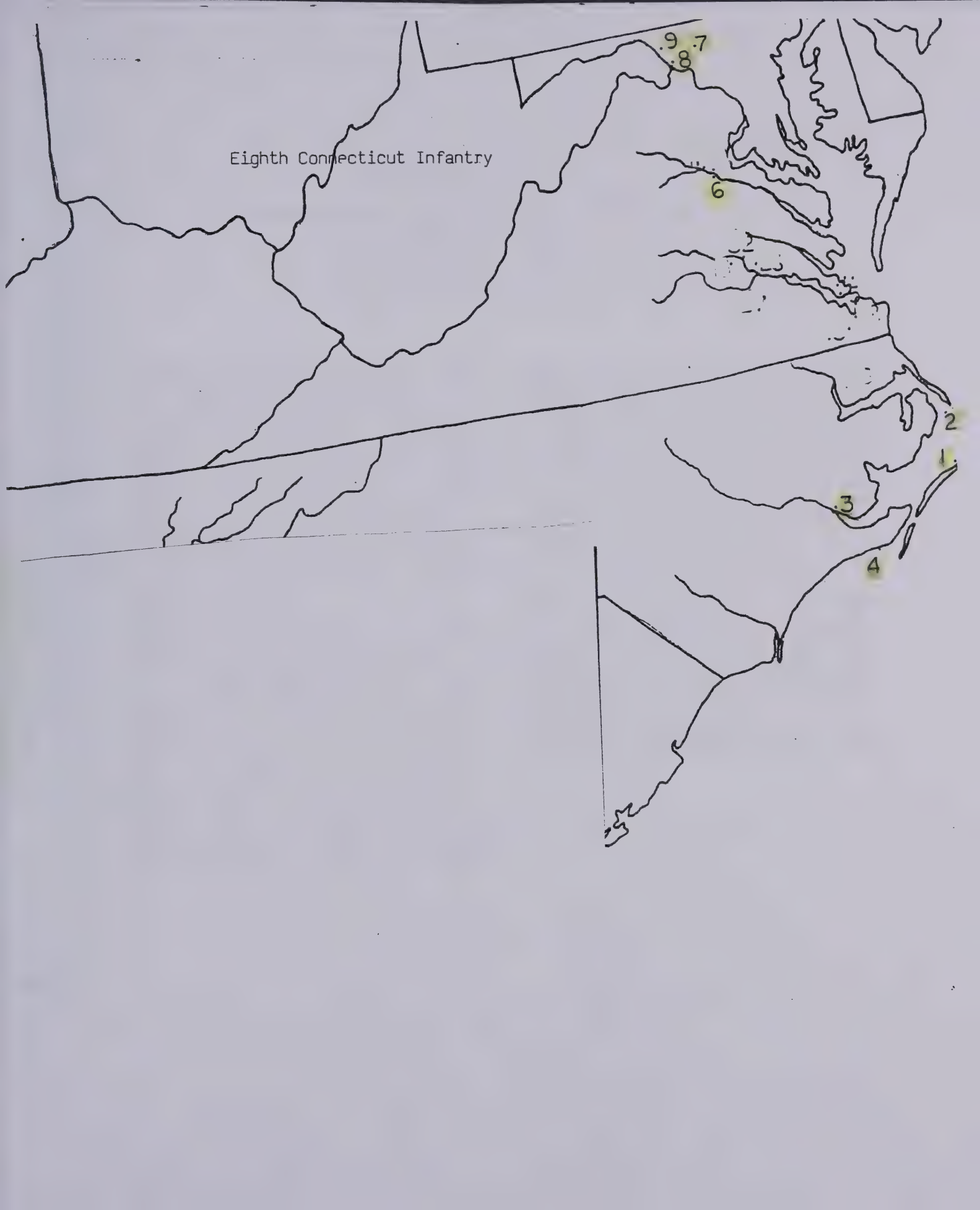
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2

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3

4





Summary of Service  
extracted from  
A Compendium of the War of the Rebellion  
by Frederick H Dyer.  
reprinted, 1959  
Thomas Yoseloff, New York  
Page 1010  
State of Connecticut

8th REGIMENT INFANTRY.

Organized at Hartford September 21, 1861. Left State for Annapolis, Md., October 17. Attached to Parke's Third Brigade, Burnside's Expeditionary Corps, to April, 1862. 1st Brigade, 3rd Division, Dept. of North Carolina, to July, 1862. 2nd Brigade, 3rd Division, 9th Army Corps, Army of the Potomac, to April, 1863. 2nd Brigade, 2nd Division, 7th Army Corps, Department of Virginia, to July, 1863. 2nd Brigade, Getty's Division, United States forces, Portsmouth, Va., Dept. Virginia and North Carolina to January, 1864. Sub-District Albemarle, N. C., Dept. of Virginia and North Carolina, to April, 1864. 2nd Brigade, 1st Division, 18th Army Corps, Dept. of Virginia and North Carolina, to August, 1864. Provost Guard, 18th Army Corps to December, 1864. Provost Guard, 24th Army Corps, Dept. of Virginia to February, 1865. 2nd Brigade, 3rd Division, 24th Army Corps, to July, 1865. 2nd Provisional Brigade, 24th Army Corps, to August, 1865. Dept. of Virginia to December, 1865.

SERVICE.—Duty at Annapolis, Md., till January 6, 1862. Burnside's expedition to Hatteras Inlet and Roanoke Island, N. C., January 7-February 8, 1862. Battle of Roanoke Island February 8. At Roanoke Island till March 11. Moved to New Berne, N. C., March 11-13. Battle of Newberne March 14. Operations against Fort Macon March 23-April 26. Skirmish Fort Macon April 12. Capture of Fort Macon April 26. Duty at New Berne till July. Moved to Morehead City July 2, thence to Newport News, Va., July 3-5 and duty there till August 1. Moved to Fredericksburg, Va., August 1-5 and duty there till August 31. Moved to Brooks' Station, thence to Washington, D. C., August 31-September 3. Maryland Campaign September-October. Frederick, Md., September 12. Turner's Gap, South Mountain, September 14. Battle of Antietam September 16-17. Duty in Pleasant Valley till October 27. Movement to Falmouth, Va., October 27-November 19. Battle of Fredericksburg, Va., December 12-15. Burnside's 2nd Campaign, "Mud March," January 20-24, 1863. Moved to Newport News February 6-9, thence to

Suffolk March 13. Siege of Suffolk April 12-May 4. Fort Huger, April 19. Edenton Road April 24. Nansemond River May 3. Siege of Suffolk raised May 4. Dix's Peninsula Campaign June 24-July 7. Expedition from White House to South Anna River July 1-7. Moved to Portsmouth, Va., and duty there till March, 1864. Expedition to South Mills October 12-14, 1863. Outpost duty at Deep Creek March 13 to April 18, 1864. Moved to Yorktown April 18-21. Butler's operations on south side of the James and against Petersburg and Richmond May 4-28. Occupation of City Point and Bermuda Hundred May 5. Port Walthal Junction, Chester Station, May 7. Swift Creek, or Arrowfield Church, May 9-10. Operations against Fort Darling May 12-16. Battle of Drewry's Bluff May 14-16. On Bermuda Hundred front May 17-27. Moved to White House Landing, thence to Cold Harbor, May 27-June 1. Battles about Cold Harbor June 1-12. Assaults on Petersburg June 15-18. Siege operations against Petersburg and Richmond June 16, 1864, to April 2, 1865. Mine explosion Petersburg, July 30, 1864 (Reserve). On Bermuda Hundred front August 25-September 27. Fort Harrison, New Market Heights, September 28-29. Chaffin's Farm, September 29-30. Duty in trenches before Richmond till April, 1865. Battle of Fair Oaks October 27-28, 1864. Occupation of Richmond April 3 and duty there and at Lynchburg, Va., till December. Mustered out December, 1865.

Regiment lost during service 8 Officers and 112 Enlisted men killed and mortally wounded and 3 Officers and 141 Enlisted men by disease. Total 264.





## Chapter 1—Oliver's Family

A brief Case family history: The ancient family of Case had its seat in Aylesham, England, where they were a noted family as far back as the time of Oliver Cromwell. They accumulated their fortunes by furnishing leather for Cromwell's army, being tanners and farmers.

John Case I, born about 1616 in Aylesham, England, died February 21, 1704 in Simsbury, Hartford County, Connecticut; married about 1657 in Hartford, Hartford Co., Connecticut, to Sarah Spencer, born March 1635/1636 in Cambridge, Middlesex Co., Massachusetts, daughter of William Spencer, Esq., and Agnes Harris of Hartford, Connecticut.

He resided in Windsor, Connecticut until the spring of 1669 when he removed to where Simsbury is now, and settled in Weatogue. Sarah died November 3, 1691 age 55 in Windsor, Hartford County, Connecticut, and she is buried in Hop Meadow Cemetery in Simsbury. John I married second Elizabeth, she died July, 23, 1728 age 90, Windsor, Connecticut, she was the widow of Nathaniel Loomis, Windsor, Connecticut. John Case I was appointed constable for Massacoe by the General Court, October 14, 1669, being the first person that ever held office at that place. He represented Massacoe at the General Court in 1670 and several times after. (17)

Oliver Cromwell Case, John Case I's great-great-great-great grandson, was born December 22, 1839. He was the fourth child born to Job and Abigail Griswold Phelps Case. Oliver was named for Abigail's father Major Oliver Cromwell Phelps. (1)

The first child of Job and Abigail was Rachel Lurannah Case. She was born in 1829 and died in 1830 at about 18 months old. She was named after Abigail's mother Lurannah Phelps. Sons, in addition to Oliver, born to Job and Abigail were Ariel Job born in 1831 (he lived to be 44 years old) and Alonzo Grove born in 1834 (he lived to be 68 years old). Both of Oliver's brothers, Alonzo Grove and Ariel Job Case, served in the 16th Regiment of the Connecticut Voluntary Infantry. Oliver's youngest sibling was a sister Abbie Jane Case born in 1846. She was the recipient of all of the letters used for this story. All of Job and Abigale's children were born in Simsbury. (1, 2)

Oliver and I are related—Oliver and his brothers Alonzo and Ariel are my third cousins four times removed. Our common ancestors are John III and Abigale Humphery Case. They are my fifth-great grandparents and they are their great-great grandparents.

As some writer said, "I wish I knew more about Oliver ... but I don't." (3) That is my feeling as well. But in another way I feel like I knew him as a 22 year old since I have discovered so much from his letters about his thoughts and concerns during his military service in the Connecticut Volunteer Infantry (CVI).

One year before the outbreak of the Civil War the 1860 United States Census (10) was taken in Simsbury, Hartford County, in the state of Connecticut and showed the following for Job Case's family (Oliver's father):



Job Case	54	Farmer	\$2500	\$100
Abigale Case	54	Keeping house		
Oliver Case	20	[Farm] Laborer		
Abbie Case	13			
Sarah C. Phelps	73			

Oliver's two older brothers were married and not living at home in 1860. Ariel had married Mary Elizabeth Thompson in 1854 and Alonzo married Julia S. Chaffee in 1857. (2)

Oliver's brother Ariel Job Case had a child born to him and Mary Elizabeth, his wife, on September 11, 1862, six days before Oliver died, that they named Oliver Cromwell Case in honor of his brother who was serving in the Civil War at the time of the baby's birth.





## **Chapter 2—Oliver Enlists**

On September 27, 1861 Oliver Cromwell Case was inducted in Company B, 8th Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Infantry (CVI) in Hartford by Lt. Chamberlain for a term of three years to begin his training to go fight for the Union Army in the Civil War. (3)

His enlistment is recorded on a Company Description card for the 8th Conn. He was described as being 21 years old, five feet eight inches tall, with a light complexion, grey eyes, light hair and that he was born in Simsbury, Connecticut. His occupation was listed as a farmer. He worked on a farm of a neighbor of his father who later testified that Oliver worked for him. The testimony was given when Oliver's father, Job Case, applied for a pension benefit because of Oliver's death during the battle at Antietam.

By October first he was transferred to Company A of the 8th CVI. On October 17 the Regiment left Hartford and started their long trip toward their first major stop in Annapolis. First, the Regiment was sent from Hartford to the Camp of Instruction on Long Island. (3)

The 8th Regiment, 995 strong, was mustered into Federal service on October 5, 1861 and spent two weeks in a camp of instruction on Long Island, New York, with Colonel Edward Harland in command. It was fortunate having him as commander since the well-to-do lawyer and close friend of the governor made sure that the Regiment was well-equipped before it left the state. (44)

There were 60 men with a surname of Case who were members of various Regiments of the Connecticut Infantry fighting in the Union army during the Civil War. A listing of each man and the Regiment they served in is included in the Appendix of this book. (4



### Chapter 3—Long Island

All of the letters written by Oliver in 1861 and 1862 that were preserved were addressed to “Dear Sister.” Oliver wrote many letters home to his sister Abbie. The first existing letter was dated October 20, 1861 and sent from Camp near Jamaica, Long Island. Oliver says, “... writing home to you to let you know that I am safe and sound.” He told that they had a pleasant time going down the [Connecticut] river. Crowds were cheering along the river as they passed by. He said that they spread their beds all over the floor [of the boat] and “bunked like a mess of pigs”. He slept soundly for about two hours until he heard his name called to stand guard for an hour. (5)

The Connecticut River flowed past Hartford and on a south-southeasterly direction to Long Island Sound. Then the boat must have sailed west to go down the East River past New York City, Brooklyn and arrive off of Staten Island then landing at Hunters Point after it passed by New York City again.

Oliver continued, “I was relieved about 12 and ½ o’clock (sic) but did not get much sleep.... About four o’clock New York could be seen through the fog but we kept on past New York, Brooklyn and at six o’clock arrived off Staten Island and lay there ... we then landed into shore... the steamers were brought under way for we knew not where. We again passed N. Y. and had a splendid view.... We landed at Hunter’s Point, L. I. about three o’clock P. M. A part of the regiment took the cars [train] immediately but our company ... waited ... for 2 or 3 hours [for] the train to carry us off. All things must have an end and so did our waiting.” (5)

Oliver closes this letter saying, “Simsbury boys are all well. We know not how long we shall stay here. My love to all.” (5)

Oliver’s next letter from Camp Buckingham, Jamaica, L.I. was dated October 28, 1861. He started this letter wanting to know why Abbie had not answered his letter of October 21. His brother had written him and told him that grandmother was not well. (6)

The National Park Service writes about leisure time being spent writing letters home. Soldiers were prolific letter writers and wrote at every opportunity. It was the only way for them to communicate with loved ones and inform the home folks of their condition and where they were. Thrifty soldiers sent their pay home to support their families and kept only a small amount to see them through until the next payday. The arrival of mail in camp was a cause for celebration no matter where the soldiers were and there was sincere grumbling when the mail arrived late.

Oliver continues that at the camp they had built “such a fire you do not often see ....” Most of the Regiment went to church. Oliver was on guard duty so he did not get to go. (6)

Oliver tells Abbie, “Jamaica is one of the most pleasantest (sic) places I ever saw. It is situated ½ mile from camp. The people gave our Regt. over a thousand loaves of bread last week ... besides giving us many apples ....” Oliver says, “I have been doing my washing ... I think I will make a good washerwoman.” He closes saying, “Simsbury boys all well. See Benejah every day.” (6)

Benejah is mentioned in many of Oliver’s letters but his full name and relationship to Abbie or to him is never explained or discussed.





## Chapter 4—On to Annapolis

Oliver's next letter of October 31 was written from Camp Buckingham also. He writes: "Our camp is full of rumors as to when we shall leave ... my opinion is we shall not leave this week or until the Tenth Regiment arrives ... I was up to Jamaica to hear a lecture delivered by our chaplain, it was one of the best I have ever heard ... we are treated much better than in Connecticut ... we are treated with respect wherever we go by the citizens, apples and turnips are free to us." (7)

"News here is as scarce as hens teeth ... the whole regiment had ... to march in before the Dr. and Capt. minus all our cloths and be subject to a through examination." (7)

"... There are 2 or 3 in our tent playing on their violins, and it is full of spectators.... Benajah is in the tent while I am writing.... I wish you would send me one dollar, postage stamps, I had some things to buy ... paper, satchel, book and some other things ... I spent some for victuals ...." (7)

A letter sent from Perryville, Maryland on November 3<sup>rd</sup> Oliver said that they stayed at the depot at Hunter's Point "till 8 o'clock and then went aboard the boat for South Amboy. 1,000 soldiers were on the steamer with "every available niche of room was occupied many of us lying with our heads upon each other." (8)

"One hour we were, that is the boat, was hauled to Pier No 1 N. River to wait for the storm to abate." They reached South Amboy safely. At four o'clock they left the boat and "we got upon the cars with but little delay and tried to start for Philadelphia which was not so easy a job as you might imagine as we had we had 19 passenger cars, but with help of another engine we got under way and arrived safely seven and one-half hours later." They boarded another train with 27 cars in all, 19 with passengers and 8 cars were for horses and baggage. "Eleven couplings broke at different places" before they arrived at Perryville, Maryland. (8)

"We arrived here not far from midnight and stretched ourselves in the depot as best we might [be] expecting to be called to fall in to the boat at any moment. I never slept better in my life than I did last night ...." (8)

"I never saw men in better spirits than we are at present. We are confined in and about the depot with a guard ...." (8)

"This place is situated upon the NE bank of the Susquehanna [River], upon the Baltimore, Wilmington and Philadelphia RR about thirty miles from the former place. There is a steam ferry boat which carries over a whole train of cars at once so there is no change of cars at this place for the south. We expect to leave on the boat every minute." (8)

The next letter dated **November 11** from Camp Hicks, Annapolis Oliver says, "... received yours of the 31st and one of the 8th ... and ... have three letters from you ... I received one from Ariel [his brother].... We had a very pleasant trip down the Chesapeake arriving at Annapolis Tuesday night where we were quartered in a college.... Thursday we marched for camp, pitched our tents and stayed overnight. It is situated one and one half miles from the city.... Friday about 11:30 as I had my gun all taken to pieces, I heard my name called and was told to pack my knapsack and ... report for special duty to be gone perhaps one day or perhaps three weeks and report at ½ after twelve. You can guess I had to scratch around some to get my things packed, my gun



for special duty to be gone perhaps one day or perhaps three weeks and report at ½ after twelve. You can guess I had to scratch around some to get my things packed, my gun put together and dinner eaten and be ready on time. In all 106 men were going for special duty.”

A Company Union Army Return Card states that Oliver was assigned from “November 1 to November 22 1861 [He was on] Det. Service Patrol commencing November 8, 1862.”

Marching orders employed,--“heavy marching-order,” and “light marching-order.” The former meant that the troops were to carry all they possessed with them; the other was to march with only the musket, ammunition, haversack, and canteen ready for working or fighting. (20) Obviously this was a light march.

Oliver tells his sister, “We marched to the city, halted before an old brick building and were marched in and told those were to be our quarters.” Our duty was to patrol the city in squads of ten and arrest all soldiers without a pass, drunken or disorderly. “The relief I am in is on from 11 to 3 night and day.” The rest of the time they could go when and where they wanted. Oliver thought they were “privileged characters.” (9)

Oliver described the town [Annapolis] as “not having street names, no number on a door, the streets are overgrown with grass and overrun with rubbish.... Houses were old and many looked like hog pens.” He said, “Churches were only nice on the inside and they are the only nice looking buildings there are here except for the Capital building.”

He wrote about family saying I hope mother was not hurt by her fall and tells Abbie [that] Alonzo’s baby is sick. Then he asks, “What appears to be the matter?” (9)

Once again he gives his sister this little report, “Simsbury boys all well the last time I saw them.” He continues to write that a report from camp that they are all going in the brigade [Burnside’s]. “I am wholly indifferent as to weather we go or stay. We have the best of quarters here, but come to think I guess I should like to see more of *Dixie Land* (italics added). I never enjoyed myself better in my life than I have since I enlisted. When you see Ariel tell him to let you see my last letter, the same with Alonzo”

Oliver closes with this, “Love to grandmother, father and mother. Respect to all inquiring friends.”

At the beginning in his next letter of **November 13** from Annapolis he says, “I am much rejoiced to hear that mother has received no serious injury from her fall” and that he was “thankful for the mittens [from Abbie]...with a finger in them. They are just the thing and better than gloves.”

“I attended a colored church Sunday and if there was ever enthusiasm in any place, [it] was there ... there was much shouting and clapping of hands. There was yelling and groaning as you never heard” during prayer. During singing “they kept time by snapping their fingers, stamping, rocking their bodies to and fro.”

“There was a little negro sitting by the side of me, and seeing I was pleased said, ‘You ought to hear them some nights they make a heap more noise than tonight, sometimes they knock down the stove by their stamping.’”





## Chapter 5—Preparing for Battle

To prepare the company for battle “they have been out four times target shooting.... They cut the board pretty much to pieces the last time out. I think this time they did better than any other Co. which is saying a great thing as the sharpies rifles have always hone off the palm before. I suppose before many weeks we shall be trying our shooting irons upon some of the traitors between Galveston Bay and Fortress Monroe.”

Fort Monroe (also known as Fortress Monroe) is at Hampton, Virginia. It guarded the approach by sea of the navigational shipping channel between the Chesapeake Bay and the entrance to the harbor of Hampton Roads, which itself is formed by the confluence of the Elizabeth River, the Nansemond River, and the James River, the longest in Virginia. Throughout the American Civil War (1861–1865), although most of Virginia became part of the Confederacy, Fort Monroe remained in Union hands.

“There has been several court martial held since we have been here and sentences are very severe for running guard, insulting officers, committing nuisances, etc. One man has to forfeit ½ months pay and he in the guard tent for fifteen days, another has had 30 lbs of dirt put in his knapsack and made to do regular duty. The punishment of being in the guard tent is more severe than you might think this season of the year, for they have no fire nor [sic] any chance of exercise and their food consists of bread and water. A man is very foolish to think of breaking the rules for they are not any more galling than civil law, but the penalties are much more severe. There is a fellow in our company close to our tent standing on a barrel with a guard around him for insulting his Corporal. If I had been in his place I would not have borne half as much from him for he insulted him every way possible before the Corporal reported.”

He closes this letter saying, “tell grandmother that I have a warmer berth this winter than I should have [up] north and enjoy myself better. Respects to all.”

**It is Christmas Day, December 25, 1861** and Oliver is writing from Annapolis. Interestingly he does not mention anything about Christmas in this letter.

Oliver was told to report to Gen. Burnside’s headquarters with five others from his Regt. “I was the only one from our Company. We went down and stayed at Gen. Burnside’s until dark when we were conveyed aboard the *Arneal*, a large transport, and took supper and spent the night. We had good accommodations and set down to a table and ate like folks instead of hogs. It is the first time that I have sat down at a table to eat since I left Hartford.”

Burnside made a row of all the men starting with the largest. “He considered for some time and then picked out the largest”... men. “They [were] detailed one for a ship to be placed in the magazine and stow away the different size balls in the proper places and keep a memorandum of where and how many of a kind so that when they are wanted they can put their hands on them without any trouble.... They were to deliver out the ammunition in case of an attack. The General ... needed strong men to handle the large balls....”



“The harbor is full of transports and gun ships all with the exception of 3 or 4 painted black.” Oliver says that there are, “30 or more besides some that have not yet arrived. He speculates that he “may have a chance upon one but do not know. We shall probably start in the course of a couple of weeks for *way down in Dixie* [italics added] and I presume wherever we go we shall be warmly received.”

“As to studies, I should think that you had as many as you can attend to at present.... Composition I think is a very good study.” (21)

Abbie Jane, Oliver’s sister, is 15 years old. Oliver is six years older than she is so he is giving her big brother counsel.

“Hope father is not going to be sick, he must be very careful of himself or he will get down.” Oliver closes, “Excuse writing as ‘the shakes’ are not pleasant to write with. [Give my] respects to all inquiring friends, especially to Cousin Mary and Grandmother.”

On a Union Army Record Card Oliver, is listed as a Pvt., in Company A, 8th Regt. Conn. Infantry there appears a Return as follows: December 1861 absent sick Gen. Hosp. on board a transport.

On **December 30** he is telling his sister that he had “the ague for nearly a week and [now I am] feeling as well as I ever did in my life, but the Dr. has excused me from night duty as he said that I should be a little careful.”

Ague an acute fever attended by alternate cold and hot fits; the cold fit or rigor of the intermittent fever; a chill, or state of shaking, as with cold; to strike with a cold fit. (23)

Also, on a Company Muster Roll for December 31, 1861 under there was this comment under Remarks: “Case drew pay in Company B up to the 1st of October. Was transferred on the 9th and on the last pay was paid for Oct. 9. He should have rec’d. pay from Oct. 1st (Case is sick on board Hospital ship)”





## Chapter 6—General Burnside's Expedition

Oliver continues in his **January 3 letter**, “Judge my surprise then, when I was summoned to pack knapsack and report to the hospital ship. It is fitted up full of good berths and is a different affair from those steamers we came in on. The surgeon has not been around yet, but I expect when he does to be discharged and go back to camp. Sexton is here with me. He has had the jaundice but is much better. There are but a few that are on board that are sick with any disease, but are most of them convalescents that are hardly strong enough for duty.” (22)

Jaundice is yellowing in the skin and the whites of the eyes. The yellow color is caused by the waste of old red blood cells. Jaundice occurs when there are too many old, red blood cells for the liver to process.

“Marching orders to be ready at twelve hours notice were read upon the dress parade last night. We shall probably leave in the course of a week or ten days at farthest. It is thought that we shall go up the James River to Richmond but of course it is all rumors. If we do we shall have some tall fighting.” (22)

“Watson E. Carr is aboard of this schooner as he has had the camp fever and measles and is not as yet got strong. He looks quite thin but is in excellent spirits. Charles Arnold, aged 19 from Bridgeport died Saturday. He had camp fever ... was not so particular as he should be about eating; therefore he was taken down. This takes two deaths within a week from our Company. There are but two much sick in the hospital from our Co. now. They are Porter and Brown.” (22)

He closes this letter with this: “Give my respects to all inquiring friends and particularly to Father, Mother and Grandmother.” (22)

This is the first letter from Oliver in 1862 written on **January 3** to his sister. He was on board the Schooner *Recruit*. He starts with the comment that he was expecting a letter from his sister. So, he says, “I again take my pencil to write you. The last day I last wrote you, myself and 120 more of those that were nearly well were carried aboard *Scout*, another schooner lying in the harbor. We had been there two days when the doctor came and looked us over and those that were fit for duty were selected, some for duty there. 20 of us ... were carried back on board the hospital ship for guard duty.... the guard duty is easy but it is cold on deck at night. At 11 o'clock today, water froze as soon as it touched the deck. We take turns about standing on deck so it is quite an easy job after all. I am now ... dipping water for everyone that wants to drink and writing when I get the chance.” (24)

“The Captains of many of the regiments are here with the payrolls to be signed before drawing pay. Sexton is on board quite sick with the jaundice. I do not believe he will go with us. Everything looks as if we should leave for *Dixie* [italics added] in a short time. The [men on the ship's] crew are bravely at work tightening the ropes and making everything taut for a start and at the camps they are paying off the men as fast as possible. There has been a great deal of trouble among the Zouaves with their officers, partly because the Col. would not allow them to be paid since they enlisted (which has



been 4 months) and partly because the officers were all Frenchmen and the men were all Yorkers and Irish. Many of them have sworn to shoot him in the first engagement they are in. Rumor from their camp today is that the regiment is to be dissolved and the men distributed among other regiments. Probably part of the rumor is true and part false.”

“I expect I must have quite a number of letters at camp for I have received none for a week and I have five due.” (24)

“Our accommodations aboard this boat are good. The only fault I have to find is that the floors are all of the time wet making the craft very damp all over and the vessel is so close upon the lower deck as to be almost stifling.” (24)

“There are all kinds of coughs here from the common cold, cough to the consumption and from the whooping cough to the crazy hack. It is amusing to be awake and hear the different kinds of hack and to count them. There is no smoking allowed except in the steerage. If I can get hold of my money before I go I shall send it home. I have sent word to camp today to have it drawn if I am not there.” (24)

Oliver closes this letter with this request, “write soon directing as before. The mails will follow us wherever we go. Remember me to all inquiring friends.” (24)

From the schooner *Recruit* Oliver writes again to his sister on **January 7**. “I now take the last opportunity of addressing you for some time as we shall leave between this and morning for *Dixie* (*italics added*). Since I last wrote you I have seen the most sorrowful time that I have ever witnessed. Henry D. Sexton died this noon of jaundice. He came on board the boat the same time I did and bunked under me until day before yesterday. When he came aboard he looked much as I have seen Alonzo. Duane Brown died and was buried yesterday. This is last chance [to mail this note, he thought, so he signed it] Brother Oliver.” (25)

“Too late. I may have another chance. Sexton was a little worse Sunday, but not so bad, that he was around. He said that if he were at home he should be sitting in the rocking chair writing but as there was no place to sit down he kept his bunk. I prevailed upon the Dr. to have his bunk changed to a more comfortable one Sunday night and Monday morning I talked with him. I thought that his mind wandered a little. I left him about two. In the morning he was not conscious and remained nearly all day in the stupid state. About three he had a spasm and rushed out of his bunk. I had no control of him as he could handle me like a child.” (25)

“It was very difficult to get anyone to take hold of him as they seemed to be afraid of him. It took five of us to hold him and keep him from tearing his face with his hands. He would bite at us and froth to the mouth, making a horrid noise all of the time. I stayed over him twenty four hours in succession before his death. I never saw anything so horrible in my life and if it had not been for the sailors I do not know what I should have done. He never has had any care upon the boat from the Dr.” (25)

“He used to come around in the morning and ask how he did – tell him to cover up and keep warm – perhaps give him a pill. He had only his own blanket and lay down upon the lower deck where it was very cold, damp, and close and where it was an impossibility to keep warm. I used to give him my blanket when I was on guard and when he could not get warm got into the berth with him. I tried all I could to have the





Dr. convey him to the hospital Sunday when I began to see that he was getting worse. He also begged him to be carried there and he finally promised that he might go the next day, but the next day was too late. With even ordinary care he might have got well in a short time. Do not mention this to anyone whatever. I never felt so bad in my life as when I saw that there was no hope of his recovery. It seemed as though I had lost the only friend I had with me. But thanks be to God what is our loss is his gain. He was prepared for the final change. Only the day before he was taken unconscious he remarked that there was only one thing that supported him during his illness at the hospital, and now when he got low-spirited, 'The religion of Jesus Christ was his sustainer.'"

This is the only comment that Oliver makes about religion. However, he carried a Bible and the person that now owns the Bible purchased it at a yard sale in Maryland. He speculates that someone probably found it on the battle field after Oliver died.

In this letter Oliver showed compassion and concern for his sick friend, Sexton. In the illness and death it showed the humanness of Oliver and the maturity beyond his 21 years of age. The statement that he was aware that Jesus Christ was with Sexton demonstrates his spiritual upbringing. Oliver did carry a Bible while serving during the war. He had had at home. Everyone that has been there speaks of the excellent care, accommodations, food etc. that they get there."

"I have been upon guard since I came upon the schooner and when I am off I go around and get water, cover up, and wait upon the sick in various ways. *This is not my duty as a soldier – but it is my duty as a man* (italics added). The Dr. often comes to me when he wants someone to carry medicine to any man when the ward masters are busy. The consequence of this is that I fare very well as far as food is concerned for if I get two rations it is all right. We have good tea which is a great treat."

"I got another man to write to Sexton's wife for I could not do it at the time. Sexton died easy but unconscious. I telegraphed this morning. Lieut. Chase said a man in the 23rd Mass. had the top of his head blown off Monday."

Henry D. Sexton was married to Harriet Eliza Barber in 1861 at Windsor, in Hartford County, Connecticut. Henry was born about 1832 and his wife Harriet was born about 1837.

"We put all Henry's things in a box and sent by express. They would not let me help pay the expenses because they said I had done my part by being with him all the time. I have received no letter from you since the one dated the 22 nd of Dec. and only one from anyone in that time."

"Send postage stamps as soon as you find where I am. I have sent to the P. O. but cannot get any there."

Oliver is writing on the **January 9** on board the Schooner *Recruit*. "My memorandum was sent with Sexton's things by mistake; therefore I will keep one on paper and send every opportunity. Our schooner did not leave as expected. The very last chance to send ashore we hear as often as three times a day. [We had] two cases of measles today.



One has anticipated it and brought it on by his own worrying when he had no symptoms. [Another man] had another of his fits; is better today.”

“I have great confidence in our new doctors. Two days ago, many were getting worse; now all are getting better. I had the first all night sleep upon the boat. Pity we did not have the doctors before and have something done for Sexton.”

On **January 10** Oliver continued this letter. “On guard through the day, but was not called at night. I am in the best of health with a good appetite. I eat two rations every meal – thanks to the nurses for that. I help them take care of the sick and they give me extra rations. I saw another case of measles this morning broke out finally.”





## Chapter 7—Fortress Monroe-Still Aboard the Schooner

“The doctor says we shall be towed out as soon as the fog rises which is very thick. The weather is very warm and sultry. The sick are much better; none dangerous. We are going to stop at Fortress Monroe. (26)

Dr. Green (head surgeon) has me get things for the sick very often. I like it as it gives me something to do. The Zouave drum major, a Frenchman who cannot understand English, is quite bad off with rheumatism. He got up and tried to get back but could not. I with another carried him. The Dr. talks with him in French. I have a sore throat, caused I think by smoking strong tobacco.” (26)

On Saturday, **January 11** he is telling Abbie that they “weighed anchor about 9 o’clock A.M. [The ship] was tugged out of the harbor into the [Chesapeake] Bay. There was a light breeze and she started off finely but the breeze soon died down and we hardly moved. The cook made his soup from salt water and no body could eat it. Complaints made to the Dr. and complaint to the General is in circulation signed by many of the soldiers. I do not approve of it; think it will amount to shucks.” (26)

“The Dr. is the man to remedy the evil. [I] did not feel well this morning. Stiff breeze towards night rocking the vessel. One of the sailors sea-sick. Let go anchor for the night. Lost a gold dollar. Agreed to stand guard for a man that did not feel well.” (25)

A short note in this letter was dated Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup> continued. “Weighed anchor early but made slow progress. Stiff breeze in the P.M. Passed the Zouaves this P.M. There is not a time but that we cannot go on more sails. Let go anchor at night. Great argument upon religion this evening. Sick all doing well.” (26)

On Monday **January 13** he writes, “Good wind; arrived at Fortress Monroe about 11 o’clock. It is a very busy place. The fleet here is one forest of masts. All hands are ordered to make up their beds as the brigade surgeon is expected on board soon. A chance to send and receive letters now offered. I presume the well ones will join their respective regiments at this place. We know nothing as to our destination but popular opinion among the passengers is that we shall proceed to Richmond. We are just as likely to go somewhere else. I have heard nothing from our regiment since about 4 hours after Sexton’s death. I am the only one from our Co. here, but I am now acquainted with nearly all on board and enjoy it very much, perhaps more than with our own company. I care very little whether I leave here or not, but I presume it will make no difference whether I care or not.” (26)

“The boat rocks so it is almost impossible to write. The sea is quite rough. The weather is a little stormy. Orders are passed over to weigh anchor and go outside. I suppose they are afraid of contagious diseases getting into the army. We have had a good deal of fun this morning seeing the Dr. shoot at ducks with his revolver. Write soon; direct to Fortress Monroe until you find where we are.” (26)

Oliver writes about the Rip Raps that are; “a low rocky island looking like a stone quarry upon the other side of the river channel from the Fortress and has a very important position in the military point of view. The Fortress looks like a large

reservoir, something like the one in Hartford only large enough to cover over six acres of land, the top and sides made permanent with cement.” He ends his letter abruptly by saying, “both doctors are seasick.” (26)



## Chapter 8--Battle of Roanoke Island

On **January 19, 1862** Oliver writes, "We left Fortress Monroe yesterday morning and after a rough passage arrived here about noon today.... At 12 o'clock the waves swept over the deck and carried away the ship's boats, the vessel rocking at the same time so violently as to rock some out of their berths and send all the wood and boxes tumbling over the deck. The wind broke the loose gaff (a piece of round timber 8 inches through) and sent it flying over the deck. The boilers (large heavy copper which are kept on the stove continually) of coffee were overturned and the boiling liquid sent streaming over the deck. The confusion was general, many falling out of their berths, others falling flat upon the floor."

One boiler fell down the hatchway making casualties too numerous to mention. I was fast asleep when I heard the racket and such laughing and enraging I never heard before. One thing was falling here, another there – those that were in their berths rolling from one side to the other (that is those that were lucky enough to keep in) and those that were out holding on to the sides. There was no danger, only a little rolling and a little fun. The fleet is nearly all in safe, only one schooner with part of the 27th Mass. and one with the Zouaves.... The former are supposed to be lost but there is hope that the latter may yet arrive. The steamer *Zouave* with two Mass. Companies ran upon a rock and foundered – all saved. A boat with some of the 11th Penn. was picked up – one man drowned – three died from exposure. One Colonel and two other staff officers lost together with a boat crew. Most of the casualties were occasioned by the storm while we were at the Fortress instead of the sea last night. There was but a little wind last night but the sea here is always rough, and the entrance to the inlet is very rocky and the channel crooked. There is a schooner sunk outside upon the shoals. I believe that there were one or two regulars lost from her. Of course, we have not been in long enough to get the particulars, but I think that this is as near correct as can be got at, at the present time." (27)

"I have heard a rumor that the 8th. Conn. was wrecked and part saved upon boats, but I can find no foundation for the rumor. The coast here is so low and sandy that it is difficult to distinguish a short distance off where it and the water meet. It is the most desolate looking place I ever saw. The Zouave drum major died night before last ... and his body left at Annapolis. He was a commissioned officer and had no business to come with us on the hospital ship. The band to which he belonged was dissolved 2 weeks before he started but he was getting \$60.00 a month which was too good a berth to give up without a struggle. He never was well enough to come aboard. He died of rheumatic fever. I have been troubled with sea sickness for the last two or three days which is anything but pleasant."

"Last night I could not set up but slept very soundly when in my berth while everyone else was rolling about the deck. I am well enough now that we are in port and have a good appetite and can bear [to eat] salt pork without gagging. I presume that I can go to my regiment tomorrow if I wish. I would be very well contented here taking care of the sick if it were not for that horrid sea sickness, for I think that we have better accommodations here than with the regiment. Direct Fortress Monroe, Co. A, 8 th.





Regt. Conn. Vol., Burnside's Division. Write soon and often. I shall get your letters sometime. Is Mr. Stockwell living? Is Scott Humphrey married? ... Love to Father, Mother, Grandmother and all inquiring friends."

"I again take my pen to address a few lines to you [on **January 26**], thinking you would like to receive letters of different dates although at the same time. We still remain in the Inlet as when I last wrote you but are expecting soon to go over the inside bar and land somewhere in *Dixie (italics added)*. Today is the first fair day since our arrival and for the last week we have had a terrible storm at times endangering many of the fleet by causing the vessels to drag anchor and to smash into each other. For the last three or four days there has hardly been a time but what there were two or three signals of distress to be seen flying but of course no relie[f] could be given then until after the abatement of the storm. I think that there has been no accident to any person happened and none very disastrous to the shipping. There was a regiment put ashore here and pitched their tents but the wind drove the sea over the beach and they had to gain solid ground by wading through the water about four feet deep. It was rather tedious considering the state of the weather but they went through it all safe. It is four weeks today since I came on board ship and I am now finally very anxious to again place my feet on *terra firma (italics added)* although we enjoy ourselves quite well on ship board."

"A gun boat arrived about an hour since from Fortress Monroe and we expect she has letters for us. We shall soon know. There is but four companies aboard this steamer, viz. A, D, F and I. The rest are aboard of a bark and a schooner; I think four companies upon the former and two upon the latter. The signal corps was given up as lost but this morning it is said that the bark can be made out outside the breakers. The signal corps is detached from the different regiments to give signals in time of an engagement. I do not know whether the Zouaves are lost or not – certain it is they are not in; such things are kept from us. I think they are sent somewhere else to garrison some fort already in our hands, because they dare not trust them in an engagement with their officers for they have sworn revenge upon them. This is only my opinion."

"The weather here at the present is quite cold but nothing like a northern winter. Eatables are brought from the sutlers [a civilian provisions to an army post often with a ship or base] boat but are held at rather high prices; apples \$.05 to 10 cents each, figs .02 to .05 each, raisins \$.20 per pint, Oysters, Turkey, Peaches, tomatoes, etc in quart cans from \$1.50 to \$2.00 each, Current, Plum, Raspberry, Grape, Pear and Strawberry jellies \$1.50 to \$2.00, sweet crackers \$.15 per dozen and everything else in the same proportion."

"The steamer brought no letters for our Regt. The steamer *L. R. Spaulding* from Port Royal to New York lay in here through the storm. I do not know as they will let her leave until after we get away. We have received no mail since we first arrived and no mail is allowed to leave so that we are pretty effectually shut out from the world." (27)

"The fleet is composed of over 100 sails in all but a few, perhaps half a dozen, have sunk or been wrecked. This is a large steamer and they have been throwing ballast out of her to make her as light draught as possible."





“Is Mr. Stockwell living? I heard a short time since that the Dr. had given him over. Alonzo wrote me that he was going to move in the spring. I think he will do well to keep Public House.”

“Is Mr. Holbrook going to leave Tarrifville? [a small town near Simsbury] I have heard so somewhere. I have forgotten where. How do Mr. Sexton’s people take Henry’s death? Have they sent to Annapolis after his body? How do Mr. Brown’s people take Duane’s death? Love to all.”

“I felt inclined not to write you because I received no letter from you in the last mail, but thinking that you will do better in the future, and knowing that you would naturally feel anxious to know how I am prospering, I have concluded to write you a few lines [on this day of **February 19** from Roanoke Island]. I did not leave the old *Chasseur* until last Friday for the reason that I was indisposed, and the regiment had not pitched their tents and it was rather damp lying in the open air, especially for the one who was not well. It was with feelings of delight that I again set my feet upon *terra firma* (italics added) after having been upon the briny deep for over six weeks. I read in the paper that we had terrible sufferings while there; perhaps it was so but I did not see it. The newspapers were short of news from Burnside’s expedition and manufactured that for the occasion. Perhaps it had a good effect in keeping the public mind from a most cursing the Gen. for the delay as he had an excuse. I do not believe that he was delayed at all by the storm, if so only a short time.” (29)

“The [Roanoke] island is almost covered with forests, mostly pitch pine, with now and then a clearing of five or six acres with a small house upon it. The land after it is cleared up is very easy of cultivation and produces light crops of corn and sweet potatoes. The forests are perfect jungle, it being almost an impossibility [sic] for man and beast to get through them. There are many swamps upon the island which are a perfect mat of green briars about 10 feet high and so thick that there is no guard kept next to them, which is the same as saying that they cannot be passed through. How that any force under the Gen.’s command could have taken the place with its numerous fortifications together with its natural advantages for repelling an attack is a wonder to many. The Georgians say that the North Carolina troops did not fight but played into our hands.” (29)

“I don’t know that they are half right for a large number now appear to be decided Unionists and quite a number have enlisted into the Mass. Regiments. Most of the prisoners were taken on board ship yesterday; as a general thing they are a tough looking set although there are some fine looking men amongst them. We are very glad to get rid of them for some of them, especially the Georgians, might be troublesome in case of an attack. They have barracks erected capable of containing 15,000 troops besides those that were burned at the upper fort. There are five forts or fortifications mounting 40 pieces of cannon of large caliber. After the battle the boys begin to look around for something to stay their stomachs as many of them had thrown away their 3 days rations of salt horse and hard tack at the beginning of the engagement.”

“They found hogs, chickens, calves, sweet potatoes etc. in abundance which they made the most of. Any way if you take a stroll over the island you will find hog skins and innards etc. scattered all about in considerable quantities. The Zouaves went and killed a man’s chickens, dressed them, then carried them in and made the owner cook them for them. Was not that rather cheeky? I have written nothing about the battle for the papers





will be full of it. Gen Burnside said the 8th Conn. held as responsibility fast as any upon the field although they did not have to fire a gun. His orders were to hold it even if it took every last man. At one time it looked as though the brunt of the battle was coming upon them, but the enemy were flanked and turned in another direction.”

“Our camp is situated in a very pleasant locality just out of the woods in the place where the *secesh* (italics added) had cleared it for us, and is protected from the cold winds and hot sun.

Secesh is someone in favor of the attempt by the Southern States to withdraw from the Union. (Oliver uses this term several times in his letters to his sister).

“It has rained every day since I came ashore until yesterday when it put off until night; then it commenced anew and rained until morning. It does not rain today but is cloudy and looks like a shower. It wants a little rain to settle the ground. Orders were given Sunday night to have three days rations cooked and the regiment was to leave Monday morning in light marching order for some place.”

“All those that were unfit for duty were looked up Sunday night and every one expected to leave in the morning or before. The Lieut. and Capt. both sent for me unbeknown to each other and told me that as I had been sick so recently I should not be able to go and wanted me to stay in their tents and in case the Regiment should not come back to see about packing up their things. It was all very well for them but I wanted to go with the Regiment and try my luck in an engagement. Each of them told me as it was such very wet weather and we should have to lie outdoors in the water it would surely bring on the fever and ague.”

“I did not tell the Capt. that the Lieut. had spoken to me first about it for I thought I could see to both. The 5th. R. I. Regiment has left in light marching order. No one knows where for. I am well and hearty. It is stated here, and by the officers, that the Gov. of N. C. has given up the state to Uncle Sam and will render what assistance is in his power to drive the rebels out of it. You will learn the truth of it by the papers.”

“I was much surprised to hear that Sam Terry is married. Give my love to Father, Mother and Grandmother. Respects to all. Write soon and often. Do not wait to receive letters from me”

Oliver is writing his sister on **February 27** from Roanoke Island. “Yours of the 13<sup>th</sup> was received last Monday, but as I had just written a letter directed to Mother I have delayed writing to you until now. The mail steamer was delayed several days upon the sound at Hatteras (sic) to the no small disgust of us as we expected to hear each day that she had been got off and had arrived. But as all things must end sooner or later, so our murmuring came to an end at last and the long expected mail arrived. You could tell by the looks of the faces who had and who had not received a portion, the former were smiling and jovial while the visage of the latter were lengthened to an alarming extent. I received four letters and one paper; not as many as I expected but enough so I did not complain. I have nothing particular to write as camp life is not very productive of news. The weather is quite cool; it usually rains every night but is clear in the daytime. My health never was better than at present.”



“I can eat at least a dozen stewed hard tack every day besides drinking over a quart of coffee and any quantity of salt horse [nautical slang for salt beef or salt junk]. The Gov. of N. C. sent a small schooner with a flag of truce requesting Gen. Burnside to give him 10 days to recall his troops and if at the end of that time any troops remain under arms he will use his influence to proceed against them with the force sufficient to drive them from the state. Gen. Burnside is said to have granted the request – if so we shall expect no fighting for ten days at least. Capt. Fowler got into a fuss with the Lieut. Col. at Annapolis and sent in his resignation. It has just come back from Washington accepted and he is going home. I think he would be glad to stay as his company thinks everything of him. He was the best military man in the regiment and should have been Maj. instead of Capt. Appleton. The only thing I know against him is that he did not come from Norwich.”

“Every indication of a protracted war seems nearly obliterated and I think if the Lord is willing, and the creek is not high, we shall be in *Old Conn [italics added]*. by the first of Sept. I should think you had quite a gathering of young people the other evening.”

“Give my respects to all inquiring friends. I quote from your letter; ‘Julia Goodwin was not there.’ You appear to be much interested in the welfare of J. G. I do not see why you should mention her in particular as not being there. Were all the young people of Hop Meadow there but her? I am very sorry to hear that Mary Bidwell is so low. I had thought of writing inquiring as to her health. All Simsbury seems to be getting married; who would have thought that Sam, Terry and Henry Noble would be married in the same month. I will never be surprised at anything hereafter.”

“Give my love to Grandmother, Father, Mother, etc. Respects to all inquiring friends. I received your postage stamps and was very thankful for them. You can judge how many letters I write for I have but three stamps left. The Sutler has got some so you need not send any more at present.”

“As we are expecting to leave this place soon and an opportunity being offered to send letters today, [so, on this **4th. Day of March**] I thought I would write a few lines [from Roanoke Island] to keep you posted as to my whereabouts and keep you informed as to the state of my health.”

“Ever since we came here we have been expecting to move every few days, and the orders here have been to keep three days rations cooked in advance as to be ready to start at a moments warning. Last night we had orders to strike tents at reveille in the morning which is beat at six A.M.”

“You can bet that there was some early rising this morning if never before. All gathered their traps together, packing knapsacks, rolling blankets etc. But when the reveille was beat the order to strike tents was not given as had been expected, and it was shortly given out that we should not be able to go aboard this forenoon on account of the wind which was blowing a strong northeaster at the time.”

“At noon our rations were dealt out, and our ammunition was looked to, to see if we had a full supply.”





“The companies that came to the *Sentinel* viz. C. E. H. and K were ordered to get ready to strike tents in 35 minutes. It has been over an hour and the drum has not beat yet. I do not know what occasions the delay. I think in all probability we shall not go aboard before morning although we are prepared to hear the order any moment to ‘strike tents in fifteen minutes.’ I have just stopped writing to take some cartridges from the orderly to make up my forty rounds. As to our destination we are entirely ignorant, some say one place – some another, but none know. I was rather disappointed yesterday by not getting more mail, it being the first mail that the Regt. has received since we left Annapolis but that I have received as much as four letters besides a number of papers. Yesterday I received no letters and only one paper.”

“We had quite a number of resignations in our regiment within a short time, besides rumors of plenty more. Capt Fowler, Capt Nash and a couple of Lieuts. have gone home. It is rumored that the Col. and Chaplain are both going home, also several others. The reason assigned for the resignation of the Col. was that Gen. Burnside had given him particular fits about the way he had conducted the regiment.”

“The Q. M. [Quarter Master] had to take his share of it because the new clothes were not ready for the Regiment. The Regiment is quite ragged at present and looks quite shabby; some were not careful of their clothes, and some were made of poor stuff. Gen. Burnside said ‘he did not want a ragged regiment following him around, and if they expected to be his body guard, they must be better clothed.’ The Q. M. borrowed about 250 pairs of pants of the R. I. Regiment and let those whose clothes were nearly torn off have them. The Gen. looks out for his men and woe be to the officer under him that tries to rough it on them. When we first came here we had some salt junk [bad meat] that was cooked up for two or three days rations and put hot into barrels, and before we ate it up it was a little tainted around the bones. The Gen. found it out and gave the commissary to understand if it happened again he could march. His men were not going to eat stinking meat. Health excellent. Weather warm. Write often. Our letters are often kept back by order of the Gen.”



## Chapter 9--Approaching New Berne, N. C.

On **March 11** writing from on board the steamer *Chasseur* Oliver says to Abbie, "As we are about moving for some place we know not where, I thought I would pencil a few lines to you to keep you as well posted as possible. We left camp (rather broke up camp) last Wednesday and were conveyed bag and baggage aboard this steamer bound for someplace, rumor says Newbern, but it is as likely to be some other place. Saturday, orders from Gen. Burnside were received that the 1st., 2nd and 3rd brigades should hold themselves in readiness to march on an hours notice, each man to carry one woolen blanket, one days rations in his haversack (two others to be cooked and carried in bulk,) 40 rounds of ammunition in the cartridge boxes and twenty more in pockets. Each man is to be held responsible for his blanket and the excitement of an engagement or of a charge will not be deemed a reasonable excuse for their loss. We are eager for a start and shall probably go today and we expect to make a hole somewhere when we move. It is likely that the fleet and land forces will act in conjunction and while the former peppers them in front, we shall attack them in the rear. Sunday night we heard of the taking of Nashville with 8,000 prisoners, whether it is true or not we do not know as we have heard no confirmation. We want to do a big thing here as well as the army in Tennessee, and if we succeed in cutting railroad communication between north and south secession it will be a big thing. There will doubtless be a large number killed on both sides, but will it not be a good time to die? A man better die fighting for his country than at home. There is not the dread of death here as there; but I expect like everyone else to come out alive. I have yet to see the man that did not. It is much the best way on the men to go into an action with high hopes and good spirits instead of feeling low and depressed."

"There has been some talk of enlisting in the regulars. The recruiting officer has been around in some regiments and many have enlisted. He has not been here and probably not in this division, but doubtless will be. I should like very much to enlist but will not until I hear from home, and know what you think about it. As for me, I should like it better than anything else I can do. Write what Father and Mother think about it when you receive this."

"There was a soldier shot last night in the upper part of the thigh. It was about 11 o'clock when a pistol which another man accidentally lost from his berth; the jar fired off. The ball is left in him and will probably not be taken out, as it is only a flesh wound and nothing serious."

"I have received no mail for nearly two weeks and am very anxious to receive one. We shall, I think, start before getting one as the anchor is being weighed at the present time, and in a few moments we shall be off. If we pass Hatteras we may have an opportunity of sending letters and perhaps receive mail. We have started, and are now underway."

Oliver closes this letter with "[My] respects to all. Write soon and often."

Oliver is writing near Newbern on **March 16**. He writes, "your letter was received while on board of the *Chasseur* Wednesday night. It had been laying at the Hatteras Inlet and was taken aboard by one of the fleet and delivered while we lay by for the night. You ought to have seen that boat about eleven o'clock, every light occupied by at least a dozen different persons each anxious to read the news from home."





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"We landed Friday A.M. in a small cove and immediately commenced marching up the river. We followed the beach for about two miles through the sand over shoals and then



“We landed Friday A.M. in a small cove and immediately commenced marching up the river. We followed the beach for about two miles through the sand over shoes and then struck off across the fields. In a short time we came up to an encampment of cavalry which had been evacuated but a short time. Some of the boys fell out and helped themselves to chickens, ham, biscuits etc. We traveled till after sundown over the muddiest road (if road it could be called) that I ever saw. We passed several farmhouses on our journey but most of the road lay through the woods.”

“About the middle of the afternoon we came to the first battery, which had just been evacuated and the barracks set on fire, which were still burning as we passed. We found out afterward that if we had been a day later (sic) [earlier] the rebels would have had their forces there and mounted and it would have taken the lives of many men to have dislodged them for it is a very strong point. The fortification is a mile long, with a large ditch in front protected in the rear by breast works of huge trees felled top of one another. It would have been almost impossible to have flanked them and they would undoubtedly have had to be charged upon to have dislodged them.”

“It had been raining some all day and after we had stopped for the night it commenced in good earnest, which was the rule, with slight variations, for the night. We were allowed fires which, thanks to the pitch pine wood, could burn as well wet as dry. I can tell you that after 12 o’clock very little sleeping was done by the soldiers in this division. About 6 A.M. we started, wet as rats, but due to the southern climate, not cold and our blankets [were] as heavy as 8 ought to be.”





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## Chapter 10—Battle at New Bern, N. C.

“We had not proceeded but a short distance when we heard the rattle of musketry and the booming of cannon, telling us that the action had commenced in earnest. As we advanced toward the battery, the balls rung tunes over our heads and occasionally played a little nearer our heads than we cared for. Philo Matson, from out on Firetown mountains, was in the rank ahead of me and was much frightened; he would have fell out if possible. The orders were given to fall down, right up, fix bayonets, fire. As soon as I had fired, I head Philo say, “Oh, I’m killed”, turned and saw a slight flesh wound on the top of his head. I certainly could not help laughing to see him. He turned to the orderly and asked him if he thought he was killed and, when he found out that he was still in the land of the living, took his gun and made himself missing as soon as possible.”

“Companies G and H were sent out as skirmishers while we lay here upon the ground. Capt. Epham of Co. H was wounded in the shoulder at this time; it is feared mortally. Howes Phelps from Co. B was killed. At this time, word came that the 21 st Mass. had charged upon the battery and were repulsed. We were ordered on double quick through a ravine until we reached the railroad where it was a high embankment where we halted to form. The balls, meanwhile, were flying as thick as hailstorms. The rebels fired one volley which wounded several and killed two from our Regiment. We were then ordered to fall and by mistake our colors fell too, and the rebels, deceived by our gray coats, took us to be rebel reinforcements arriving by railroad and ceased firing upon us; this mistake probably saved many lives. When we started from there we went double quick to charge their battery, but as they did not like the look of cold steel they left in a hurry. The color guard immediately ran up to the battery and planted the colors which were the first upon the battery.”

“The U. S. flag had two bullet holes shot through it while being planted. We were ordered to file right towards the other battery and were drawn up in a line of battle, and the two flank companies again sent out as skirmishers. In a few moments, a Gen’s aid came with his horse upon a run, and asked, ‘why did we not charge upon that battery?’ saying that we were wanted there very much. The Col. told him to go to Gen. Parke; that he was the man to give orders. The Gen. ordered the left wing of the brigade to charge and the right to flank them (the enemy) if they attempted to retreat to the right, which we were much afraid of as by this means they would get possession of the first battery again, and if the Rhode Island regiment was driven back that we should reinforce them. Three different times we prepared to charge, but each time some circumstance happened that prevented it. As we lay upon the ground the balls whistled over our heads in abundance but did not do our regiment much injury. I think there is but three killed and about a dozen wounded in the 8th. The 11th suffered more than we when lying upon the ground, for the balls simply whistled over our heads and hit right in amongst them.”

“Capt. Lee from Hartford was killed and two of his company by the same ball. Our loss is about 100 killed and 200 or 300 wounded. There were two wounded in our company, one in the wrist and one in the head – neither serious. I had no idea of the noise created in battle by the artillery and the musketry until I heard it. It was like one continuous roll of thunder for perhaps half an hour without the least intermission, and then perhaps after a few seconds another more deafening, if possible, than before.”





“After the taking of the second battery, we took the railroad for Newbern. We came upon three *secesh* (italics added) camps about three or four miles from the batteries situated within about a quarter of a mile of each other. The camps had just been left; the principal Q.M. and Commissary tents were in flames, but the barracks and sheds for the horses and two commissary tents with a lot of provisions and horse feed were left in good condition. There were lots of clothes left that had never been worn also double barrel shot guns, carpet bags full of trinkets, letters, daguerreotypes etc. I have read about a dozen of the letters but find nothing interesting in them and of no interest in themselves except as specimens of poor spelling. We marched past the camp one half mile but were ordered back to camp for the night.”

Daguerreotype is an early photograph produced on a silver or silver-coated copper plate.

“The forward part of our division went to Newbern and captured several thousand prisoners. 120 car loads left at the approach of our troops. The rebels burnt all the public buildings and any others that they thought would be of any value to us. It was the grandest sight I ever saw. It looked like a needless sacrifice of property, but I suppose it was better than to have it fall into our hands. We have taken 60 pieces of artillery in the different fortifications besides many military stores. I suppose the next stand of the rebels will be at Goldsboro where we shall probably attack them in a few days. There is no one of your acquaintances killed in the battle”

“Alonzo wrote me some time ago, asking Lieut. March if Duane’s money had been sent. I wrote him that it was sent to Melvin Goddard, North Canton, Conn. The reason why it was sent there was that Philo Matson told them it was best and he was the only one that knew anything about his family, in the company. I was upon the hospital boat at the time.”

“There were a few of our boys that fell out before the battle and have thus made themselves the laughing stock of the company. I tell you it does not play well to play coward here. We have been living some since we came here upon what the *secesh* (italics added) left. We have found molasses, sugar, rice, coffee etc. which we cook ourselves. Just imagine a soldier having his griddlecakes for breakfast, fresh meat for dinner, boiled rice and coffee for supper and you have an idea of the way we are living at present.”

“There is one thing I forgot to tell you. It is that in the Rhode Island 4th there is a woman that goes with them wherever they go. I saw her first upon the Island, but have seen her often since. She dresses in bloomer costume with black pants, a closely fitting bodice with a skirt coming nearly to the knees, men’s boots with her pants tucked inside and a nice velvet hat. There, that is the first time I ever described a lady’s dress and I hope you will not criticize it too much. I saw her with the Regiment Thursday straining through the mud with her blanket on her shoulder, equal to the best of them. There was one of the officers’ aides riding one horse and leading another one when he came up to where she was. She jumped on to the horse as easy as any man. It was the first time I ever saw a woman ride a horse like a man.”

“In the morning when we got up to start, the Regiment formed in the road close by her; she was ahead carrying the flag. She went with them into the battle field and ran some very near chances of being hit, the shell of one bursting close to her side. She begged the Col. to let her kill one of the wounded rebels to pay for her husband being wounded.



She looks, a little way off, like a young girl of twelve or fourteen years. She was out in the three months campaign. Her husband is now the Lieut. he was orderly when she was married. There are not many men with more pluck than she has."

"There came into camp last night about 35 contrabands and more coming in continually."

"I left your letter with my knapsack on the boat and cannot now tell what you wrote. I did not like the idea of having the secessist (sic) read my letters so did not bring them with me. George Lewis sends respects."

"Give my love to Grandmother. Love to all. My postage stamps are on the boat."





## Chapter 11--Operations against Fort Macon

Writing this time from Carolina City on **April 6** Oliver has this to say, "I don't know but you think I have forgotten you in delaying writing for so long a time, but the truth is all our movements of late have been in light marching order, everything being left behind except blankets and accoutrements. The last I wrote you, I believe, was dated Newbern where we stayed until the 18th when we again went aboard of the steamer, destination unknown. We landed up the creek about 7 miles; the same one that we landed at the mouth of before, and again took to land. Here we remained until 5 ½ o'clock, without having had any rations for one and one half days, when 35 men from A Company were picked out for a forced march of a dozen miles."

"There was the 4th R. I. and the 8th. Conn. It was the hardest march I ever saw; mud over shoes, water often knee deep, our haversacks empty, stomachs ditto. We arrived at deserted *secesh* (italics added) Camp\_barracks about 9 ½ o'clock where we made up fires and kept ourselves quite comfortable for the night. Some of our men were so completely exhausted that as soon as they got to camp they fell upon the ground and could not be aroused. We again took up our line of march about 11 o'clock the next day, leaving a few companies to guard the barracks, on the road towards Morehead and Beaufort. We had proceeded but a short distance when we were halted and a day's rations of hardtack and about ½ gill of whiskey given to each man. Our march was rather hard for the reason that we were so stiffened up by our last night's tramp, but as we only marched nine miles we stood it pretty well. I was put upon picket the first night which I did not relish very much after the fatigue of marching, but lucky for me I had a pair of dry stockings in my pocket which were worth their weight in gold at such a time."

Hardtack was a biscuit made of flour with other simple ingredients, and issued to Union soldiers throughout the war. Hardtack crackers made up a large portion of a soldier's daily ration. It was square or sometimes rectangular in shape with small holes baked into it. Large factories in the north baked hundreds of hardtack crackers every day, packed them in wooden crates and shipped them out by wagon or rail. Usually, the hardtack did not get to the soldiers until months after it had been made. By that time, they were very hard. Soldiers were usually allowed six to eight crackers for a three-day ration. There were a number of ways to eat them. Soldiers would crumble them into coffee or soften them in water and fry the hardtack with some bacon grease.

"It was the 22nd when we arrived at Carolina City where we have remained in some shanties of boards which we have picked from some old dilapidated dwelling. The *sesech* (italics added) burn the principal buildings before they left. There has been a splendid vessel burnt near the fort since we have been there to prevent its falling into our hands. I have been out on picket 7 miles from camp with two day's rations this last week and like it very much. We traded off our hardtack and salt horse for sweet potatoes and hoecake and had a fine mess of greens. When I got back, Co. A was on the other side of the sounds, except for a few sick ones who were left behind, and as our tents had come we were to pitch and floor them and get into camp once more. We expect the Co. back today but they may not be in, in several days. Our Regiment is pretty well split up; two companies at Morehead, one at Beaufort, and ours over on the Island."

"Fort Macon is situated upon the extreme west of the island and completely hemmed in by our forces, both by land and by water. Our gunboats will make an attack soon.



many lives. The garrison consists of 300 men which cannot hold it a great while against our mortars.”

“I have received all your letters, the last one from Father. I was much rejoiced to receive a letter from him. I was very sorry to hear that Uncle J. A. Tuller’s house was burnt. The deaths of Wm. Mather and wife; were they not sudden?”

He closes with, “I will write a better letter next time.”





## Chapter 12—Bouge Island, N. C.

On **April 17** Oliver writes to “Dear Sister.” “Yours was received in due time and, of course read with eagerness. I had heard of the burning of J. A. Tuller’s house, but did not know how it caught fire.”

“The weather here is very warm in the daytime with the exception of a cool sea breeze which makes it quite comfortable.”

“Some of the companies are detailed each night to help build entrenchments and I think that by three or four days at farthest we shall open fire upon the fort. The mortars and field pieces are nearly all in position, and part of the howitzers.”

“I do not see what object P. A. Matson can have in representing me sick and ‘will probably never be able to see Conn. again.’ He knows that since I left Annapolis, with the bare exception of a short time upon the *Chasseur*, I have been perfectly healthy. I do not think that there is one in the company but what has had sick spells caused by exposure. I may not live to get home, but I think I stand as good a chance as anyone in the company, P. A. Matson to the contrary notwithstanding.”

“Did you not receive a letter mailed Newbern written on a large sheet of bill paper? It was some that the *Secesh* (italics added) left and we found. I wrote one to Ariel which he received; you can get that of him if he has not torn it up and if you can read it, by having patience to pick out bad pencil marks, you will find as much of a description of the battle as I could give. A person in the ranks knows very little about a battle; all he knows is to obey orders. I felt very different upon the battle than I had expected. There is not the dread of death that one naturally expects. P. A. Matson was in the file ahead of me and I could not help laughing to see him skulk and dodge, trying to fall out, When he was hit he fell upon the ground saying, “Oh God, I’m killed. Orderly, be I killed?” I never was more pleased at any thing in my life. That shot was worth a great deal to him for it was nothing but a scratch at most.”

“I have sent with Lieut. Marsh’s package \$25.00. I wish you would call on Mrs. W. P. Marsh and get it.”

“Capt. Hoyt is sick and at the hospital in Morehead; afraid he is going to have a run of fever. I have been a little down with a cold for a week or ten days, but since I have got into camp I am all right. I am afraid that some of my letters are miscarried because I did not put on the count. What is Alonzo’s boy’s name? Give my best to all inquiring friends.”

Alonzo Grove Case’s family group sheet shows Alonzo’s baby born on April 1, 1862 was named Alonzo Chaffee Case.

Oliver ends this letter with a plea in the post script. “P. S. If you send me anything, send paper, envelopes, pen and ink.”

On **April 28** once again Oliver is writing from Bougue Island. It has been 11 days since he wrote his last letter to Abbie so he starts with, “It has been sometime since I have written a letter to you and, thinking you would like to hear from me, I take this opportunity of addressing a few lines to you. The Regiment has been hard at work ever since we arrived here, throwing up entrenchments to protect the artillery and infantry.”

“The work was completed Thursday night and the bombardment commenced early the next morning and continued without intermission until four in the P.M.. our Regiment



dig one another out with shovels. Several of our men were hit by balls rolling into the trench upon them, but none were wounded. The artillery lost one killed and two wounded.”

“The rebels came out with a white flag about four o’clock and a messenger was sent for. Gen. Burnside, also, arrived in the evening. Capitulations were agreed upon before morning and early the next day the *Stars and Stripes* (italics added) were run up by the 4th R. I. Regiment. The 8th Conn. were not very well suited to do all the work and have the 4th R. I. hoist their flag, but that is all right; it is *Uncle Sam* (italics added), anyhow. The prisoners were discharged on parole, much to their gratification and some of our boy’s displeasure. Sightseers say that they had a great time over in Beaufort Saturday when the garrison was set free.”

“Children looking for their parents, wives for their husbands, fathers for their children and when they were recognized in the crowd such a hugging and kissing as was not often seen was carried on. I forgot to mention that their loss (according to their statement) was 8 killed and 15 wounded, but *Dame Rumor* (italics added) says they were busy all night burying their dead. There were five guns dismounted in the fort and the inside generally was pretty well used up. Capt. Hoyt has been over to see us today and will probably take charge of his Regiment in a few days.”

“We shall have to go to Newbern tomorrow or next day – distance 42 miles – good tramp for a worn out Regiment.”

“I have the ague about two days out of three; I have an excellent appetite and eat more victuals and quinine than two men should. My discharge was made out by the Capt. about ten days since; he says he will do all he can to get it through. Don’t think I am hard sick for I am around cooking and shaking, hardly ever contented to be in my tent. Now that I have told you this, don’t think that I am coming for it is not such an easy thing to get a discharge and as far as living is concerned, I could live three years and shake all of the time, but I never should be of any use to the army. He closes his April 28 letter from Bogue Island with: “Write soon and often.”





## Chapter 13—Back to New Bern, N. C

He begins his **May 8** letter from New Bern, “yours of the 27th is just at hand and had I have written no letter home for some time I hasten to reply. When I last write you, we were among the sand hills of Bogue Island where a spear of green grass was a curiosity and where sand flies and fleas seemed as if to foreclose mortgages upon your carcass, but now thank fortune we are once more in an inhabitable country where everything is calculated to make one enjoy himself.”

“The ground is carpeted, the trees are covered with foliage and both upon the ground and trees abound. We left Bogue Bank about a week since, taking an old schooner for Carolina City and from thence the *Young Wheelbarrow*, a small stern wheel steamer taken from *secesh* (italics added), to Morehead where we arrived in the P.M. We spent the night in the R. R. depot, which by the way is situated over the water, and took the steamer *Highland Light* for Newbern where we arrived about 5 P.M. and after spending the following night upon the boat were landed upon the opposite side of the Trent from Newbern. We are encamped about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile from the city upon the bank of the Neuse [River] in a very pleasant locality.”

“We received our new Sibley tents yesterday and are much pleased with them. They are perfectly round with a center pole about twelve feet high and a ventilator at the top. The diameter of the tents at the bottom is about twelve feet and they accommodate when full twenty, although at present they will have to accommodate only twelve.”

The Sibley tent was invented by the American military officer Henry Hopkins Sibley and patented in 1856. Of conical design, it stands about twelve feet high and eighteen feet in diameter. It can comfortably house about a dozen men. Sibley’s design was supported by a central pole which would telescope down into the supporting tripod so that it took less space to pack and store. It required no guy ropes, being held down by twenty-four pegs around the base. The use of a cowl over the central pole allowed for ventilation and for the escape of smoke.

“Every few days our pickets are driven in (about twelve miles below here) by some *secesh* (italics added) cavalry. Several have been killed and some taken prisoners. To prevent this in the future, Gen Burnside has ordered several thousand cavalry to be sent on to scour the country and look up the scattering rebels. The first detachment arrived Tuesday and the others (35 schooners in all) are said to be between here and Hatteras.”

“There is an excellent daily published here by the Union troops which gives all the news current in this quarter. I will send you one the first opportunity. The steamer last night brought in the news that Yorktown was evacuated. Query, where will they make a stand next?”

“Capt. Hoyt is well and with his company. He has had a pretty tough time of it. This is the first place I have been in this state where the land looked as though it would pay for cultivation, but here it looks as if it might raise large crops of corn or tobacco.”

“In some of my letters I have spoken of getting a discharge but as I am well at present and likely to continue so I, of course, shall (and can) not get one.”

“The troops are busily engaged in building a railroad bridge over the Trent (where the rebels burnt the old one) and in a short time [R. R.] Communication will be open throughout the whole extent of the road. The checks of the state bounty are ready and





"I received last mail the first No. of *The News Letter*. I suppose they are plenty with you although quite a novelty here. When I heard that the Conn. [River] had been so high I thought that you must have had some trouble with water in Weatogue."

"Write soon and often. Letters from home are getting to be a scarcity with me; in fact, letters from any place are not as plenty as they were. I used to get at least 4 each mail, now sometimes one and sometimes not any. I made out to get three today, considering myself lucky."

I am glad you sent a box of things although I am well at present. Are farmers planting yet? Are trees leaved out? How is Grandmother suited with the change? I heard Col. J. A. Tuller did not like Alonzo coming onto Grandmothers'. Is that so? Give my respects to all inquiring friends. Have you received the money [that] I sent home? I sent it with Lieut. March directed to Anna. There was \$25.00 of it. Send some stamps. Direct [next mail to] Newbern."

On **May 24** Oliver talks about: "The last mail for this division having been miscarried, we have been a week without mail matter and being tired of waiting have concluded to write again, mail or not. There has been no particular change in the department since last report. The season is advancing rapidly. Blackberries are ripe in abundance and just outside the guard they are plenty but we cannot get at them but the darkies have full swing at them for they can go out and in when they please. The berries are different from those [up] north. They taste more like a mulberry and the vines have not near as many or as long thorns as there. There is quite a peach orchard just outside of camp. The fruit is about as large as a small butternut and grows quite fast. The land here is fertile (or at least looks so) and is covered over with weeds, wild vines etc. in abundance. It looks too bad to see it lie uncultivated when good land is so scarce in these parts, but the owner being *secesh* (italics added) thought that he was not wanted and when he heard of our approach [he] *vamoosed the ranch* (italics added)."

"The expedition has three engines put together and soon we shall have steam cars running over the rails and things will have a more business like aspect. Rumor says that any gunboats are to go to Charleston; how much truth there is to this remains to be seen. Rumor from James River that the *Monitor* had a shot put through her and the *Galena* was riddled and obliged to put back for repairs. Rumor that Beauregard has surrendered with 25,000 prisoners. Can't quite see it."

"I do not think this Regiment will see any more service, but everyone has his own opinion. The Colonel reported to the Gen. yesterday that we had but 350 men upon duty and they were not fit for a long march or heavy fatigue. We are thrown out of position in the brigade and are not brigaded at all at present. Many think that we shall never move again until we move for Conn."

"We have 2 new Surgeons; 1 hired for 30 days, the other for 60. Dr. Pease from Thompsonville is one and Dr. Holcomb from somewhere near New Haven is the other. We also have a new Chaplain; he appears to be a very nice man. I do not think he will come up to Dr. Woolley."

"Alonzo asked me what was going to be the next news of Burnside. We do not know as much of his movements or intended movements as you do. He has at and around Newbern 20,000 men which are able with the immense fortifications to resist a force of 100,000 men if they should slip through Mac's fingers."

"George Lewis is quite sick in the hospital. Benejah is healthy and as full of life as ever."





kitchen and see you all if only for a short time but that is not possible at present, but I trust it will be in a few weeks. I was glad to hear that Elfrida Case was getting better.”

“Do you get any news of Gen. Hunter’s division? We have heard nothing from them since the taking of Fort Pulaski. We are daily looking for the taking of Charleston and Savannah.”

“You asked me to name Alonzo’s boy. I have thought over the whole category of names from Adam down to the last edition and I do not find any to suit me. I think if Alonzo wishes to hand his name down to posterity, it is a good time to do it, but I should adopt some other name in place of Grove. If I was going to name a child I think I should take some fashionable name and pick out the most *frenchified* (italics added) different name it was possible to find but everyone to their notion. You might name him after some of our great Generals now in the field.”

“How does Col. Case take his wife’s death? I reckon it would go rather hard with him, feeble as he is.”

“My hair is growing out fast; it will be fit to cut in a few weeks. How is fruit this season? Is there going to be many apples? Write soon. Give my love to Julia. Remember me to all inquiring friends, James in particular.”

On **May 30** Oliver address his dear sister, “Yours of the 19th was received the 17th inst. and was read with interest. Everything remains here the same as at last advice with the exception of a change in the officers of the company. Lieut. W. P. Marsh has been promoted to Capt. of Co. F. It was a surprise to our company as well as theirs and it was universally regretted by the men as he was an officer thought everything of by them. How it will go down in Co. F. I do not know for the Lieut. that came out with them as first Lieut. is in the same position at present while our old Lieut. came out as 2nd Lieut. of this company. He was presented with a sword and sash by the boys. It took him entirely by surprise and his attempt to make a speech was a failure. Capt. Ward has been promoted to Major, our old Major Appleman having been promoted to Lieut. Col.”

“I am on guard today for the first in a long time and am writing this by the guard tent for we are not allowed to go to our tents for 24 hours. It is reported today that Gen. Foster’s brigade are coming this side of the Trent to build a fort.”

“The Paymaster has just come upon the grounds to pay off and I expect we shall get our pay ere long. It is overdue since May 1st. I may get it so as to send some in this letter. I shall see about Mr. Bacon’s letter the first opportunity which I think will be tomorrow for the old guard have a pass to the city the next day after having been upon duty.”

“I understand that our Regiment is to be filled up. We are not sorry for the guard duty is rather irksome for the well ones for there is so many off from duty.”

“We have just been up and got our pay but I will not send it home until I hear from the bounty check which I sent when I first came here. The letter is directed to A. G. [Alonzo Grove] Case, Simsbury, and made payable to him in order so that if he does not get it I shall not lose it and the money together by express.”

“I received my box long ago, sooner than I did the letter you sent with it. I presume ere this you have received the letter acknowledging the receipt of it. I can tell you I enjoyed it hugely and I think it did me much good. The cheese is excellent; I think the best I ever ate. Dried beef also and the brandies and wine, well, I shall not attempt to describe them.”

“Give my love to all, especially Alonzo, wife and children and Grandmother. I do not



health is good at present and I enjoy it. I do not know but you will think I spend a good deal of my money. I am not in the hospital as nurse."

From Newbern Oliver writes on **June 3** rd: "When I stopped writing the other day I did not expect that so long a time would elapse ere I should again resume my pen but it being impossible for me to finish it that day as I had no envelopes with me." (40)

"The last day of May we were already and in line to go over to Newbern but [it] was oppressively warm. Before we got to the city it commenced raining and we had the pleasure of standing in the street about ½ an hour and then marching back again. The new bridge over the Trent is all done but laying the track and fixing the draw. It was planked for us to walk over. I was surprised at the distance across (for the Trent is a small stream compared with the Neuse) which is at least ½ mile and the distance from where we were encamped to the bridge must be ¾ of a mile at least. It brightened up in the P.M. We were again ordered to prepare for review and again took up the line of march for the metropolis. We were reviewed and inspected by Gen. Burnside and aides and paraded nearly all over the city."

"Tonight a number fainted and had to be taken out of the ranks during the inspection which was tedious. As soon as our Regiment reached the bridge to go back, I fell out and after resting a short time went back into the city, bought a good supper and then strolled around where I pleased, my gun and equipments being as good as a pass; for the patrol took me for one of themselves. I did not arrive in camp until 8'clock."

"Newbern is one of the pleasantest (sic) cities I ever saw for its streets are shaded by large trees which meet overhead which makes the streets pleasant that otherwise would be uninhabitable. The streets are regularly laid out but the houses for the most part are low wooded buildings and would compare unfavorable with any out of the way neighborhood at the North. Sunday I was again over to the city for the old guard has the privilege of one day to the city and the day upon review did not count."

"We have just got a new program for the duties of the day. Reveille at 5 o'clock A. M, drill 7.30 to 9 A. M, Battalion drill 4 to 6.30 P.M, taps 8:25. These are the principal changes."

"I cannot get Mr. B's letter through at present but will as soon as possible. Please write whether A. G. received check for state bounty for if he did not it will be necessary to get a new one. He closes his June 3 letter, "Remember me to all."





## Chapter 14—Fredericksburg, Virginia

This is the last letter we have from Oliver Cromwell Case written in camp near Fredricksburg, Va. dated **August 7, 1862**. He begins by saying, “Knowing you would be anxious to know of my whereabouts, I take the first opportunity of addressing a few lines to you.”

“We left camp at Newport News, Saturday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> about 10 o’clock P.M. and went aboard the steamer *Columbia*. I was one of the detail of 75 men to load and unload baggage and convey it aboard. We were detailed at 4 P.M. and finished at 3 A.M. Wednesday morning. I can tell you we felt like sleep about the time we finished our work.”

“We were all put upon one small steamer – baggage, horses and all – and the weather was hot, hotter, hottest. You can judge of the room we had but I was fortunate enough to get a place upon the hurricane deck and got all the breeze there was. We left the dock, or rather the steamer started the trip, about noon. We left Fortress Monroe at 4 P.M., arriving at Aquia Creek next P.M.”

Aquia Creek is a tributary of the tidal segment of the Potomac River located in Northern Virginia. The creek empties into the Potomac at Brent Point 45 miles south of Washington, D.C.

“Went ashore next (Tuesday) morning, took the cars for the South. Here again I was fortunate enough to get on top of a box car and was quite comfortable while the train was in motion. The road runs through the finest country I ever saw and contrasts strangely with the country we have seen heretofore. The place where we at last brought up is the pleasantest place I ever saw. The railroad runs through a fertile valley with low hills upon each side. We toiled up one of these hills to the east with our knapsacks and accoutrements on under a blazing sun, many falling out by the way. After supper, on reaching the top of the hill, we had a splendid view of the city of Fredricksburg and the village of Falmouth which lie west of the railroad upon either side of the Rappahannock. There are very many nice farm houses surrounded by any quantity of shade and fruit trees – some built the same style as Chester Seymour’s, but nicer. One peculiarity about the hilly land here is that it is so free from stones of any size and the land is comparatively smooth and the hills nearly regular. I saw some that were perfect cones and others that are in ranges so the sides are like the sides of a huge roller.”

“In the P.M. we were marched down the hill to the opposite side of the railroad where we bivouacked for the night. Yesterday pitched tents and commenced housekeeping. We have not had any rations yet but lucky for us we were paid off before we started.”

“There are picketing skirmishes nearly every [day and will probably continue]. We shall probably advance in a short time.”

“Enclosed find 30 dollars. I received express bill yesterday. Think the box will be forwarded without doubt as letters from Newport News are forwarded daily. I send you by mail the paper published here. Direct [mail]: Burnside’s Division, Fredricksburg, Va. via Washington”

On August 9 Oliver adds, “I gave this to the Chaplain to send by express but could not. I have to take out the money.” (41)



*This concludes the 33 letters written by Oliver to his sister that were originally saved by his sister Abby and was transcribed by volunteers at the Phelps Tavern Museum in Simsbury, Connecticut. This is a first person record of Oliver's one year experiences as a Union soldier. From August 7 to September 17 the story will be continued from the history of the 8th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry, other books, documents and battle records.*





## Chapter 15—Approaching Antietam

The 8th Regiment of the CVI moved to Fredericksburg, Virginia August 1 to 5 and camped across the Rappahannock River from the city spending August doing picket duty with the 11th Regiment. (42)

Alonzo G. Case and Ariel J. Case, Oliver's older brothers, enlisted in the Union Army in the 16th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry at this time.

Alonzo enlisted on August 7, 1862 at the age of 28. His occupation was listed a farmer. According to his Enlistment Record, copied at the National Archives Museum in Washington, D. C., he had blue eyes, light hair, light complexion and was five feet 11 inches tall. Watson Wilcox was his recruiting officer.

Ariel enlisted August 5, 1862 at 31 years of age. His occupation was listed as a clerk. According to his Enlistment Record, copied at the National Archives Museum in Washington, D. C., he light blue eyes, light hair, light complexion and stood five feet nine inches tall. Alonzo G. Case was his recruiting officer.

Both of their enlistment terms were for three years or the duration of the war.

A few months before this there was a call for 200,000 added Union troops. This is most likely when Alonzo and Ariel decided to join their younger brother in the service of their country.

Both Alonzo and Ariel were married at this time. Alonzo was married to Julia S. Chaffee. They were married in Simsbury on October 19, 1857. By 1862, when Alonzo enlisted, he and Julia had two children: a daughter, Lillia S. Case born on August 10, 1860 and a son Alonzo Chaffee Case born April 1, 1862. This son died on August 1, 1864 while his father was in Rebel prison.

Ariel was married to Mary Elizabeth Thompson in Hartford, Connecticut on August 30, 1854. They had four children and Mary was with child. This baby was born September 11, 1862 after Ariel had left Hartford and was marching toward South Mountain and the Antietam Battle fields. They named the baby Oliver Cromwell Case. The naming of this baby was most likely named in honor of Ariel's brother.

Ariel and Mary's four children were Lizzie born in 1855, Minnie born in 1857, Charles born in 1858 and Julia born in 1860. All of their children were born in Hartford.

On Wednesday, September 3, 1862 General Robert E. Lee's Army four days after the Confederate army's stunning victory at the Second Battle of Bull Run; General Lee dispatched a long letter to President Jefferson Davis. The key sentence was about how propitious it would be for his army to enter Maryland. However, Lee announced his plan, "to carry the war onto enemy soil...." He would take his Army of Northern Virginia across the Potomac River into Maryland. By invading Maryland Lee thought he could harass the enemy on their own soil.

On September 3 Lee broke camp and headed toward the fords on the Potomac River near Leesburg, Virginia. Initially Lee did not intend to occupy enemy territory permanently. (42 Pg10) Lee entered Maryland with barely more the 50,000 men. The Connecticut 8th Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Infantry (CVI) arrives at Washington, D. C. on September 3rd and stayed until September 8th and made camp on the grounds of the Capitol. Then they began their march west to join the Army of the



Potomac in its chase after Lee. Along with the 11th and 16th Connecticut and the 4th Rhode Island, they became part of Burnside's 9th Corps, Rodman's 3rd Division, in Harland's 2nd Brigade. Because Harland had taken command of the 2nd Brigade, Lt. Col. Hiram Appleman took command of the 8th Connecticut.

Many of Lee's men were ill and exhausted. He lost some of his men to physical pain and severe hunger for they had not eaten for 6 days. Many suffered a bad attack of diarrhea. In spite of these problems the morale was high. One soldier wrote home, "None but heroes left."

On September 4 the Confederate Army arrived in Leesburg. After coming upon a ford they started the invasion of Maryland. The Potomac was one-half mile wide and at the ford and was waist deep. It took 4 days for Lee's army to cross at the ford—from September 4 to 7. Meanwhile, hope for the Union Army fell on Major General George B. McClellan. On Friday, September 5 he began marching the bulk of his army into Maryland. He took about 84,000 troops. On Sunday, September 7, Lee's troops finished crossing the Potomac.

The 8th Regiment CVI departs Washington, DC. The roads were crowded with wagon trains and soldiers. The sun was hot and the march was covered with a dust cloud. They marched 10 miles that day and stopped at Leeboro.

Wednesday, September 10, Lee's army began to leave Frederick, Maryland after the soldiers were refreshed after 4 days rest.

Under McClellan the Federal Army was in better physical condition than Lee's. On September 11 the Army of the Potomac was still 15 miles southeast of Fredrick and advancing only 6 miles a day.

McClellan was always thought to be overly cautious and added to that McClellan was hampered by lack of accurate intelligence about Lee's army strength—he was given estimates of 100,000 to 200,000 troop strength.

The 8th Regiment of the CVI continues advancing but wagons and soldiers cause a significant delay. The 8th and 11th CVI Regiments followed Lee's army from Frederick, Maryland.

Alonzo, in his Recollections, describes how they "overtook the [Union] and three days after leaving Washington and saw the Eighth Conn. for the first time and saw my youngest brother, he being a member of the same Co. and Regiment with myself."

They continued to the foot of South Mountain near Turner's Pass where the Regiments supported the cavalry. Then both Regiments marched to Antietam Creek near Sharpsburg arriving on September 16. It was the next morning when the fortunes of the 8th diverged from those of the 11th the latter was chosen by Burnside to help take the Lower Bridge at about 10 A.M. while the 8th remained with the 2nd Brigade closer to Snavelly's Ford under the Confederate-occupied western bluffs across the Antietam.

Rodman's division crossed Antietam Creek at Snavelly's Ford at about 1 P.M., the same time Burnside's other units finally fought their way across the Lower Bridge to the north. Rodman's division was to link up with those units and join them in angling to their right joining in on the attack on Sharpsburg.





Rodman did not know the terrain over which his division had to pass on September 17 nor was he at all aware of the approach of A.P. Hill's division of the Army of Virginia crossing the Potomac ford after its forced march from Harper's Ferry. After all of Burnside's brigades rested and re-supplied following the three-hour fight to cross the Antietam, Harland's brigade continued its sweep around the Confederate right threatening to cut it off from its Potomac River ford.

Rodman was delayed in linking up with Willcox's Division to the north by the stubborn defense of some Confederate units under Toombs which were the residuals of the Regiments forced back from the bluffs overlooking the Lower Bridge. After the Union units to the north had received more ammunition the advance continued. At about 4 P.M. Harland ordered his three regiments to advance but apparently only the 8th heard the order and moved forward. Harland sent his aide to hurry up the other two Regiments. Then, Rodman riding up ordered Harland to stay with the 8th trying to catch up and support General Willcox's 89th New York; Harland accompanied the 8th as it continued on its advance forward and to its right. Rodman then left to go after the 16th CVI and the 4th Rhode Island but just as he turned to leave, he was fatally wounded. Harland, still nearby, took command.

The 8th CVI was alone about a half mile from its starting point with the Brigade; it was only 120 yards from the Harper's Ferry Road near a battery of abandoned Confederate cannons, the South Carolina Pee Dee battery, which they and the 9th New York had taken. But then, they saw Confederate troops advancing on the road from the west. Confederate General Toombs saw the 8th "standing composedly in line of battle" apparently waiting for support. The 8th in its forward position was under heavy artillery and musket [fire] and took about fifty percent casualties, a severe loss demonstrating the fury it faced: 34 killed, 139 wounded, and 21 missing. A company commander described the fight:

"Bullets came in terrible showers and from all sides of us...but we were trapped on our left flank...full of rebels. Where was our support [?]. Where was the first brigade none of them to be seen on the right, where they had gone? Where was the 16th (CVI) and 4th [Rhode Island] Regit. Who were on left? It was death to remain in this advanced position longer. The Lt. Colonel was wounded and taken to the rear. 6 out of my little company of 39 men lay dead at my feet and some 15 had been wounded.... My Lt. also wounded. I had but seven men left of my company [after detaching]. [A]fter forming we marched down to creek... [a] sad exhausted little company."

The major reason for this heavy loss was that it faced the Confederates by itself on a plateau because it's two sister Regiments, the 16th Connecticut and 4th Rhode Island, never made it out of the 40-acre cornfield on the Otto farm located in a hollow to the southeast. While some of the 8th retreated without firing a shot, most of the veterans, according to an unidentified officer of the 37th North Carolina said, it "held ground quite stubbornly, fought splendidly, and went off very deliberately, firing back at [us] and waving its flag."

Harland's aide had found the 16th Connecticut with its 900 raw recruits and ordered it up to rejoin the 8th, but [A. P. Hill's] Confederate Regiment opened fire from a few yards away on its left flank; the 16th's Colonel ordered it to change front but the men had little idea how to accomplish this complicated maneuver. A few minutes later, after





leaving over three hundred casualties in the cornfield now turned red, the survivors ran toward the Antietam. The 16th Connecticut and 4th Rhode Island had been hit in the left flank by the full fury of Gregg's brigade of Hill's division in a downhill attack sustaining 285 casualties in the two regiments within minutes. Just to the northwest at about the same time, the 8th was hit on its left flank by Confederate Brig. Gen. O'Brien Branch's Brigade; Branch was killed in that attack while 346 in his Brigade joined him as casualties.

A two-hour respite given the Confederates had allowed them to fall back and regroup; and this also permitted the unexpected arrival of A. P. Hill's division which extended the Confederate right beyond the Union line.

McClellan's total failure to make any use of the 4,000 cavalry he had available for scouting and reconnaissance allowed Hill to approach undetected. Burnside's assault was in jeopardy even though Hill was able to bring only about 2,000 men against Burnside's several thousand; Hill's depleted brigades were able to take Rodman's division in its left flank and combined with the element of surprise against the green troops, resulted in a rout.

The remnants of the 16th Connecticut and 4th Rhode Island retreated as fast as they could to the east with only a few pausing to fire at the pursuing Confederates. Men continued to be hit as the Confederates continued their pursuit soon threatening to push the men into the Antietam. However, closer to the creek, Ohio regiments which had formed a line behind the shattered remains of Harland's brigade were able to stem the Rebel tide just before dark. The 8th, from its isolated position ahead of and to the north of its Brigade, retreated more towards the northeast ending up on the Rohrbach Bridge Road moving south on the road to rejoin the rest of the Brigade. Fortunately for the Union regiments on the west bank, Confederate officers had decided not to continue the attack. The shaken survivors of Harland's brigade could now try to rest amid the moans of the wounded and dying. The 8th had sustained its highest loss it would experience during the entire war: 194 men killed, wounded and missing.

*It was during this last battle is when Oliver Cromwell Case was shot through the head just above the ear.*

On November 19, 1863 in a two-minute speech at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, President Abraham Lincoln spoke about honoring the dead as a result of the battle at Gettysburg. He could have been speaking about the Battle at Antietam Creek or about any of the many other battles during the Civil War. He said in part in his speech:

“...from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion-that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have not died in vain...”

Oliver Cromwell Case, as well as many others, dedicated their lives to preserving this Nation.

On the outside wall of the Administration building at the Antietam Cemetery is the full text of President Lincoln's Gettysburg address. Private Oliver Cromwell Case did not express personal thoughts about the Civil War. He did long for it to be over soon. He was ready to carry out his duty as a Union soldier. And he did give, “the last full measure of devotion;” with his life on September 17, 1862.





**Chapter 16**  
**An Account of the Battle**  
**From the Diary of Charles S. Buell**  
**8th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry**

The last letter Oliver wrote to his sister was dated August 9, 1862. By including Buell's diary in this narrative we are able to get a different perspective and follow his personal first hand experiences leading up to and during the Battle of Antietam on September 17, 1862. Charles Buell experiences were most likely similar to Oliver Case's experience. They served in different Companies but both were in the 8th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry.

Above the first entry in his diary Buell wrote:

Charles S. Buell, Woodbury, Conn. 8th Regiment Company E Conn. Volunteers.  
Should it be my fate to fall upon the battle field or otherwise be deprived of life they will very much oblige the owner thereof if they would see that it was returned to my relatives at Woodbury, Conn., Litchfield County.

We pick up Buell's diary on **September 11, 1862:**

I have had quite a tramp today in my search after wood I got lost and wandered all day. When I returned to camp my Regt. had gone. I trudged along after them. I halted at night near Damascus. The rain poured down while I was destitute of blankets.

**September 12th**

This morning I started in search of my Regt. And found them after a march of 3 miles just packing up for a start. My things were all right. Friday morning we started for Fredrick City. Followed up the Baltimore and Ohio RR. The sun poured down in fury upon us. We reached the city just at dark with but two men wounded. The citizens and girls fairly leapt and cried for joy. They invited us into the Hospital and treated us to wine and good things. We had hot tea and warm biscuit with butter.

**13th Forenoon**

We started this morning from the city throwing out skirmishers in advance.

At this time we have been winding our way up there up the mountain to make a flank movement probably. I am feeling quite well, with exception of the rheumatism (sic) in my left leg. Our march today has been a rapid one pursing the enemy close to their heels. The Calvary had a skirmish with the rear guard to their baggage.



### **Sept. 14th**

This morning the sky is hazy. Last night we lay on our arms about half a mile from Middletown. Thus another of Gods holy sabbath's (sic) must be counted among the many of carnage and bloodshed.

God forgive us and protect us by thy might. Give us victory for thy son's sake. Amen. We are again called to fall in and pursue the retreating foe. This morning we had bush meal for breakfast.

### **Afternoon**

We started from camp 10 1/2 ock (sic) for the Blue Ridge where the action commenced and lasted all day. Gen Reno was killed. Our Regt. was not brought into engagement but two balls pass near me.

### **Sept. 14th and 15th**

These two days will always be in my memory as the hardest of this campaign. Just two week yesterday we commenced this march and have kept it up night and day living on hard tack and occasionally a bit of fresh beef boiled. It was hard but ewe will never submit to Rebbeldon (sic) though we have to go through Hardship and privations to the bitter end. God be with us and sustain us in every conflict.

### **Tuesday, 16th Forenoon**

Last night we had a forced march of six or seven miles. We forded one deep creek with wet feet and hungry stomachs (sic). We lay down to rest. The ball opened this morning at about 9 ock. At our baggage wagons. But little damage was done. Four men were killed and several mules. At four ock (sic) in the afternoon we moved in line of Battle to the left (Gen. Rodman's) division. The rebels threw shells at our advance up to dark. All is right the shells fell short.

### **Wednesday 17th morning**

The Rebels commenced shelling us at early dawn. Our Regiment lay within range of their shell about 2 hours four of our men were killed and several wounded. We moved to the left and supported our battery at about 2 oclk (sic) the rebels skedadked (sic). across the ravine & were we after them shot shell and canister. Our boys were in good spirits we have had nothing to eat today.

This concludes the entries in Charles S. Buell's diary entries covering the lead up to the Battle at Antietam, some commentary on the battle its self and





### **Thursday 18th**

Great Battle fought Yesterday. At about four PM we engaged the enemy with infantry. The rebels got a cross fire on our Regt from three ways our fellows fought with undaunted Bravery. John Tuttle my chum was shot through the bowels we held the enemy in check until reinforcements came up. We were ordered back across (sic) the river to get something to eat having (sic) nothing for three days but a few Biscuits (Hardtack). We drew (sic) in line of battle accross (sic) the river and called the roll our Regt could muster out of our 130 man company but 14. This morning we had fresh meat and coffee and Hard bread breakfast and we feel much better. This morning my heart is full of thanks to God that I am still alive

### **Friday 19th**

Last night we lay near Antietam Creek to prevent the rebels from crossing. We went on to the battle field in the afternoon and brought out our dead. Leach and I brought off John E. Tuttle.

### **Saturday, 20th**

Thus morning heavy cannonading is going on in the direction of the Potomac we are to remain in camp today a little.

### **Sunday 21st**

Last night we recd Mail I received three from Woodbury two from home and one from Emma. John had one I wrote two letters today to Emma and one to Sister Amelia.

### **Wednesday 24th**

Today I am about sick with disentry (sic) and pain in my head and bones. Andrew J. Cotney starts for home on a 30 day furlough. I am unwell, about discouraged today.

This concludes the entries in Charles S. Buell's diary entries covering the lead up to the Battle at Antietam, some commentary on the battle itself and some of his feeling after the Great Battle.

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His brigade was led by Col. Harland. The National Park Service account continues: "About 3 P.M., the Division advanced. One regiment of Harland's Brigade [8th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry] gained the high ground northwest of this point; but the remaining two regiments [16th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry and the 4th Rhode Island], while moving through the forty acre cornfield northeast of this, were attacked in flank, by the right of A.P. Hill's Division and compelled to retire to the cover of the high ground near the Bridge."



## Chapter 17—Conclusion

It had to have been painful for Oliver's family that he did not survive the battle and war. It was very heartbreaking for his father and especially for his mother since his father went to Antietam to have Oliver's remains unearthed and then took his remains back to Simsbury to be buried there. Did his mother insist that her son's remains be returned? She probably did since every mother wants to have closure for a tragedy like this especially when it is her youngest son. If Oliver could have returned to Simsbury after his service, married and had children he would have been a good father. From the insights gained from his letters he was a thoughtful and compassionate soldier and friend. He would have been a good husband and father but as a result of his being killed it meant that his progeny died with him. But as he said in one of his letters he was not afraid to die. Was he proud to serve his country? Based on the totality of this story we can believe he was.

Oliver's parents other two other sons, Ariel and Alonzo, continued to fight in the war. And later Alonzo was captured and imprisoned in Plymouth, North Carolina. His mother and his wife had to be heartbroken with worry until he was pardoned and released.

So, this one family suffered a lot of grief because of the war. That grief and suffering was to be multiplied by many thousands of families in the north and in the south.

But in a strange way Oliver lives even today with the words that he wrote in his letters and that his sister, Abbie, must have cherished and saved for herself, her family and us today. Oliver was concerned about his family and their welfare, he helped care for his fellow soldiers when they were sick and was always asking about his parents and his friends back home. Based upon all that we know during his eleven months in the Connecticut 8th Regiment, he surely was a hero at the height of the battle at Antietam Creek when they needed him.

Oliver's true story ends on a sad note with his death on September 17, 1862. The following is part of the story told by Oliver's brother Alonzo Grove Case in his *Recollections of Camp and Prison Life* that has been received from The Phelps Tavern and Museum. This is part of his story:

"I went with my brother, Ariel Job Case, to where the Eighth Regiment CVI was fighting to learn the fate of our younger brother Oliver and found only eight or 10 of his company left from about 40 they had started with on the morning of the battle. We were told by a comrade of Oliver's that had stood beside him when he fell. His fellow soldier said that he called him by name but there was no reply. He said that he was no doubt killed. The next morning we went and waited near the bridge all day. We could not go onto the battle field as it was held by sharpshooters on both sides. "

"The next day September 19 myself and my brother had permission to go to look over the field to see if our brother's body was there. We wanted to be sure he was dead. We commenced that awful sickening tramp and if I could picture to you the sad sites that we beheld. The ground for acres and perhaps for miles were strewn with dead and wounded.





Some of the wounded were crying for water. They had laid there the day of the battle and two nights. Many soldiers were looking for some comrade of their own Regiment

but that afternoon we found the body of our brother. He was no doubt killed instantly the bullet having passed through his head just about the top of his ears. We wrapped him in my blanket and carried him to the spot where the Connecticut 16th Regiment dead were to be buried having first got permission from the Colonel of the Eighth and the 16th to do so. The Connecticut 16th Regiment men were buried side by side in a trench. We dug a grave about 6 feet from the mass graves and we deposited the remains of our brother in the ground. We at first pinned a paper with his name and age on the inside of the blanket. Then they put up boards that had his name and Regiment on them.”

Adj. Burnham of the 16th CVI described the burials of those of his Regiment who were killed in the fighting Wednesday, September 17. He described the battle field burial place for an article printed in the Hartford Courant on September 30, 1862: “It is about one mile from Sharpsburg to the Stone Bridge [Burnside’s Bridge], and the spot selected for the grave is midway ... on the south side of the road, just back and west of a white house ..., and opposite of which is a [red] brick house. The bodies lie near a large tree standing alone.... South of the tree [is] Oliver C. Case of the 8th....

Alonzo and Ariel went on to fight other battles in the War with the 16th CVI. Alonzo was taken prisoner by the Confederacy at Plymouth, NC April 20, 1864 and was paroled February 28, 1865. We know he was a prisoner for one day at Andersonville. He was also in prison at Macon and Savannah, Georgia and Charleston and Columbia, South Carolina. His brother, Ariel, sent clothing to him while in prison. But Alonzo suffered from jaundice and asthma of the lungs. He survived and returned home. But he suffered all the rest of his life with illnesses.

Oliver’s body lay there at Antietam until December 1862 when his father went to where he was buried and had the remains returned to Simsbury where it now lies in Hop Meadow Cemetery along with his father, his mother, his brothers and other family members.

The battle on September 17, 1862 at Antietam Creek has been called *The Bloodiest Day* in the Civil War. But in the end General Robert E. Lee, the Confederate General, and General George B. McClellan, the General for the Union, both stopped fighting at the end of that day with neither one of their armies winning.

However, Lee did retreat back to Virginia safely. McClellan did little to impede him. Victory for McClellan meant not the pursuit and destruction of Lee’s army, but put simply halting his invasion. It was a bloody standoff with over 22,000 soldiers on both sides being killed, wounded or missing on that day.

This battle gave President Abraham Lincoln the hope he needed for issuing the Emancipation Proclamation. Lincoln was disgusted with McClellan that he had let Lee’s army escapes to be able to fight another day. But Lincoln still regarded it as a victory. On September 22 Lincoln held a Cabinet meeting and discussed the final draft of his Emancipation Proclamation.



It gave the slaves of southern plantations hope that they would have an opportunity for freedom and it gave the nation hope that the United States of America would be one nation again. However, it did take a long time to bring the North and the South together and for the country to become whole again.

The Confederate resistance ended on April 9, 1865 when General Ulysses S. Grant sent a telegram to Lincoln stating that Confederate General Robert E. Lee had surrendered the Army of Virginia at Appomattox Courthouse. The fighting continued in other areas for several months.





## **Appendix--Family Group Summaries**

These are the families that are closely associated with Oliver Cromwell Case. These are his ancestors and his immediate family.

1. John Case (1694-1752) and Abigail Humphrey  
Oliver C. Case's Great-Great Grandparents
2. Job Case (1737-1798) and Joanna Wilcox  
Oliver C. Case's Great Grandparents
3. Ariel Case (1765-1827) and Rachel Lattimer  
Oliver C. Case's Grandparents
4. Job Case (1805-1899) and Abigail Griswold Phelps  
Oliver C. Case's Parents
5. Ariel Case (1831-1875) and Mary Elizabeth Thompson  
Oliver C. Case's Brother and Sister-in-Law
6. Alonzo Grove Case (1834-1902) and Julia S. Chaffee  
Oliver C. Case's Brother and Sister-in-Law
7. Oliver Cromwell Case (1840-1862)
8. George Mortimer Phelps (1846-- ) and Abbie Jane Case (1846-1935)  
Oliver C. Case's Brother-in-Law and Sister



## Oliver Cromwell Case's Death and Burial

*First, we have the story of the fighting as told by Alonzo Grove Case*

Little did we think how near we were to our first experience in fighting but it was very well that we could not see what was in store for us in the near future. The morning of Sept 15 th we crossed the mountain and then I saw the first dead Rebel the bodies had been picked up from the wagon tracks and laid by the side so that we could march through and there were piled from two to four deep in some places. It was a sickening sight to me. The faces of nearly all them were nearly as black as the stove. The thought passed through my mind of their friends at home thinking of them lying there and perhaps to be buried in unknown graves for I am told there was a deep concern on the side of the mountain where hundreds of dead were thrown. On the top of the mountain we saw quite a number of prisoners that had been captured by our forces. These were the first live Rebels that I ever saw, and I assure you that I should have fared better than I did if these had been the last that I ever saw, but such was not the case.

We marched the 15 th and on the afternoon of the 16 th we caught up to the army again and while lying in the road we saw some shells from Lees guns. Here we heard Rebel artillery for the first in marching into a meadow to go into camp we passed through the eighth Conn. Regiment and there I saw my Brother he said we would have a little brush with Lee and that would be all and he would then skedaddle over the Potomac. We went into camp and I slept on our arms, and as soon as daylight the pickets commenced firing on each other for they had not been over ten rods apart all and very soon Lees Artillery commenced throwing shells to find out where we lay. While lying there close to the ground there was a shell dropped into the eighth Conn. And killed three or four and buried half as many more with earth. They were lying a few rods to our left in a more exposed position those were the first men on our side that I had seen killed. We were very soon ordered up and in passing out of that meadow we were obliged to pass directly in range of the Rebel guns. Here several of my Regt were wounded one piece passed so near me that it nearly knocked me down. Our surgeons horse was badly wounded at this point by a piece of shell striking him in the side but we soon got away from that trouble and we were marched through hollows and over hills through corn and swamp finally (sic) were halted on a hill where we could see the battle afar off.

Here we had a view of a battle that I suppose a very few have had the privilege to witness. That is to see a battle going on where you can see a large part of it and not taking any part themselves, and we did not then expect that we should be actively engaged in it at all. About 11 o'clock in the forenoon(sic) we were ordered to move and we were marched around. It seemed to me that at that time more for exercise (sic) than anything else, and finally down to Antietam (sic) Creek and then were marched through





the water being from one foot to three feet deep. After crossing the creek we were marched down about ½ mile and then up the hill and as soon as we were discovered by the Rebels they opened their Artillery on us and you can rest assured that we got our heads down out of sight very soon and as the firing (sic) ceased we were ordered up again. It seemed to me that the move was all foolishness at the time but afterward could see what of what benefit we had been by simply drawing the fire of the rebels and not being allowed to reply. Soon after we learned that Burnside had been trying to carry the bridge (that now bears his name) and had not succeeded but as soon as we crossed the creek and showed ourselves above the Hill we at once drew the fire of the Enemy. Now was the time to charge the Bridge which was done and was a success, so that we learned that we had acted as a decoy and was a success. But this decoy business was not all the part that we were to take in that now famous battle of Antietam.

We were marched up the hill not far from the bridge and were soon ordered in line of Battle. This was the first time we had formed a line of Battle and had never loaded our muskets so you can see we were in poor shape to be put into the thick of Battle but we marched down into a ravine into a cornfield and very soon found we were in a very hot fire. Our regiment was on the extreme left of the whole army and I staid (sic) in the corn until I looked up the corn rows and saw the Rebels not more than twenty rods from me coming down us, so I concluded it was time for me to get out of that place. I can assure you that I got out in good order all by myself. I cannot tell how or when the rest of the Regiment went for I think every one got out in his own way. After getting out of the corn the bullets were very thick and many were killed and wounded. While trying to get out of range of the Enemy fire, I soon came across Capt Babcock of my company badly wounded. I got down beside him and took his sword just at that time Gavett B. Holcomb came up and we went to the Hospital with him. I found my way back about one fourth of a mile and then found a small number of the Regiment lying there and waiting for some orders, soon after riding there I was struck by a bullet and I supposed I had received my fatal wound. I dropped on to the ground and some of the men were going to help me up but I felt I could not be moved finally I began to move one limb and then another and soon found that I was not dead and would try to get up which I did and found that the bullet passed through four thicknesses of my Haversack and two thick leather belts and then its force was stopped but I had supposed that it had passed through my body that night all that I could find was a black & blue spot on my side. We were soon ordered from here and marched down and across Burnside Bridge and into a meadow near by to camp for the night.

There was less than three hundred of us then where only three hours before there was over one thousand. I went with my Brother to the Eighth Regiment to learn the fate of



my younger Brother Oliver and found only eight or ten of his company left from about forty they had in the morning. I was told by a comrade that stood beside him that he fell and he called him by name but no reply. Said he was no doubt killed. The next morning we were marched down near the bridge and lay there all day. No one was allowed on the field as it was held by sharpshooters on both sides. The next day Sept 19 myself and Brother had permission to go over the field and look for our Brother's body being very sure he was dead. We each took our canteens filled with water and commenced that awful sickening tramp and if I could picture to you the sad sights that we beheld. The ground for acres and miles in length were strewn with dead and wounded and wounded crying for water they having lain there the whole day before and two nights but every one was looking for some comrade of their own regiment but sometime that afternoon we found the body of our Brother we were looking after.

He was no doubt killed instantly the bullet having passed through his head just about the top of his ears. We wrapped him in a blanket and carried him to the spot where the 16<sup>th</sup> dead were to be buried having first got permission from the Col of the Eighth & 16<sup>th</sup> to do so. The 16<sup>th</sup> men were buried side by side in a trench and then they dug a grave about 6 from them and we deposited the remains of my Brother in that having first pinned a paper with his name and age on the inside of the Blanket then they put up boards to each with name and Regiment on them.

*Second, we have the story of Oliver's burial as told by Adjutant Burnham of the 16<sup>th</sup> C. V. Near Sharpsburg, MD, 19<sup>th</sup> September 1862—11 o'clock P.M.*

A. N. Clark—Dear Sir: I have just finished burying those of our regiment who were killed in the fight of Wednesday, and I lose no time in giving you the list. I give you a minute description of the locality in which we placed the dead, in order that their friends may find their bodies if they wish. There is a road running about due east from Sharpsburg to the Stone Bridge across the Antietam Creek, for possession of which hard fighting took place in the morning. It is about one mile from Sharpsburg to the bridge, and the spot selected for the grave is about midway between them on a hill on the south side of the road, just back and west of a white house with a high piazza in front, and opposite of which is a brick house and large barn. The bodies lie near a large tree standing alone, and which I had blazed on all sides so that it can be easily discovered.... [t]hey are all together and lie as follows: South of the tree are Jesse O. Barnes and James McGrath of Co. E, of our regiment, and Oliver C. Case of the 8<sup>th</sup>, a brother of Ariel J. Case [and Alonzo G. Case] of the 16<sup>th</sup>. On the north side of the tree are the remainder, arranged in the following order commencing on the south and facing the east: (He now lists each man by name and by Company)....





We have placed in the order their names are mentioned above, commencing on the south. We have placed a small head board to each body marked with their name and company, but I have been particular to mention the precise locality of each, so that in the event of the signs being displaced by the elements or otherwise, they may be found; and I trust any one who comes to the spot will be very particular and disturb none but those whom they are in search....

*Next we continue with Alonzo's story telling about his father,  
Job, coming to Antietam Battlefield to get Oliver's remains  
and his telling about President Lincoln's visit.*

His [Oliver's] body lay there until December when Father went there and brought the body to Simsbury where it now lies to mingle with the soil of his native town....

[A]t this writing Dec 20<sup>th</sup> 1894 .... We moved from Antietam the third day after the fight about three miles to a place called Antietam Iron Works where we remained several days. While here we were visited by President Lincoln the only time that I ever saw him while president. The men cheered themselves hoarse at the sight of that man....



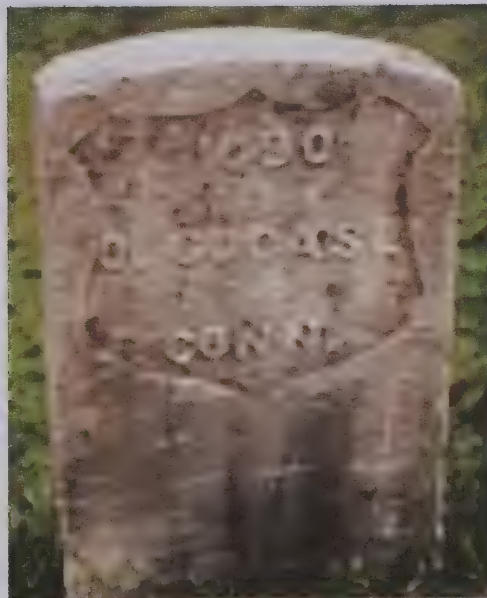
**President Lincoln and General McClellan in the general's tent**





### Oliver C. Case

Simsbury Center Cemetery or  
Hop Meadow Cemetery  
759 Hop Meadow Street  
Simsbury, CT



### O. C. Case

Died September 17, 1862  
Grave Marker located in the Antietam Battlefield Cemetery  
Near Sharpsburg, MD (3)







### **Bible of Oliver Cromwell Case (3)**

1854 T. Nelson and Sons, London; Edinburgh and New York.

Inscriptions from Oliver Cromwell Case's Bible:

If you die, die like a man.

Miss Abbie J Case, Hartford Conn

[A Name Written in his Bible] Miss Jennie A Hartford

Oliver C. Case

Co. A. 8<sup>th</sup> Reg't C.V.I.

If we suffer, we shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him,

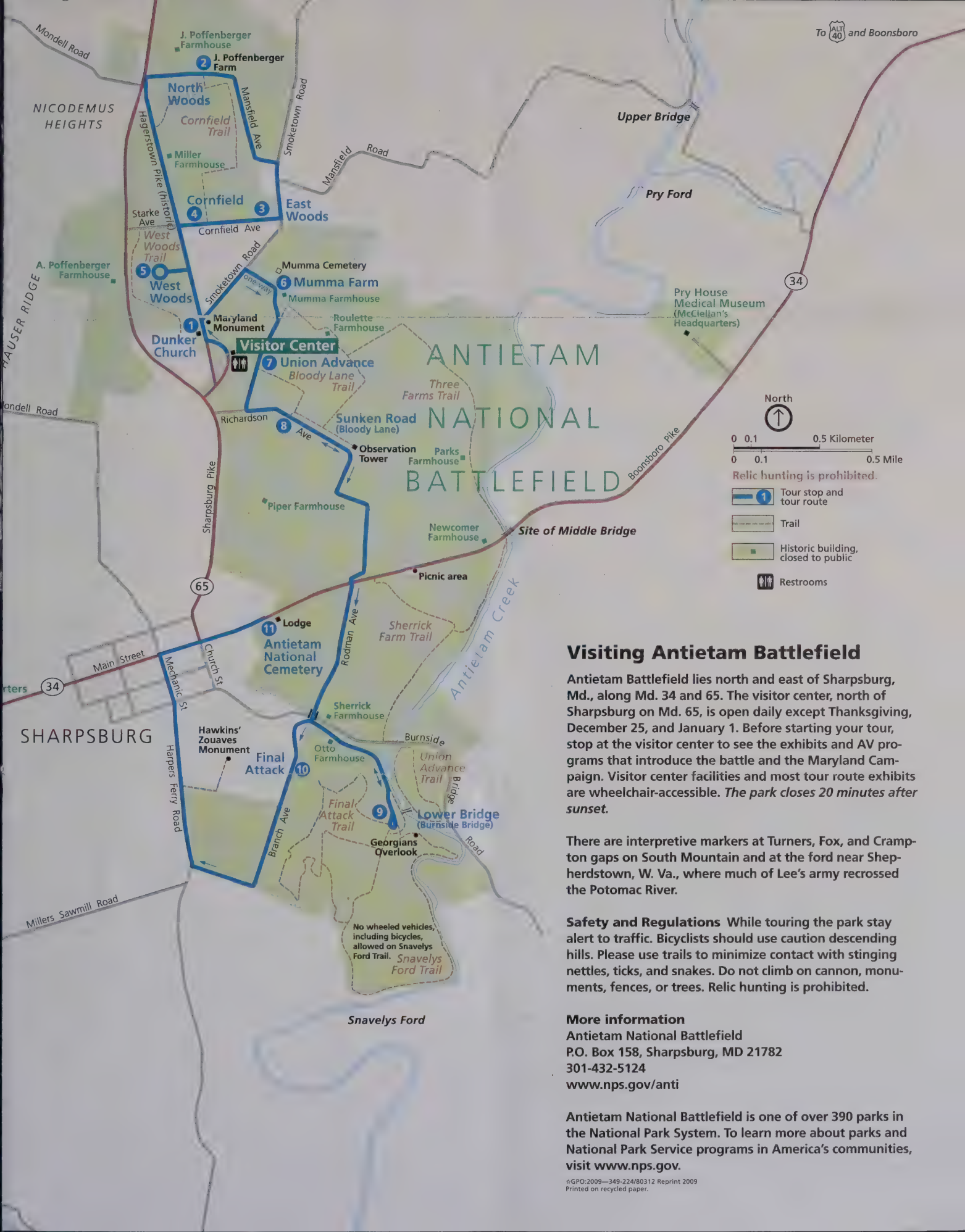
He will also deny us. 2 Tim. 2 [Verse 12]



Simsbury







## Visiting Antietam Battlefield

Antietam Battlefield lies north and east of Sharpsburg, Md., along Md. 34 and 65. The visitor center, north of Sharpsburg on Md. 65, is open daily except Thanksgiving, December 25, and January 1. Before starting your tour, stop at the visitor center to see the exhibits and AV programs that introduce the battle and the Maryland Campaign. Visitor center facilities and most tour route exhibits are wheelchair-accessible. *The park closes 20 minutes after sunset.*

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### More information

Antietam National Battlefield  
P.O. Box 158, Sharpsburg, MD 21782  
301-432-5124  
[www.nps.gov/anti](http://www.nps.gov/anti)

Antietam National Battlefield is one of over 390 parks in the National Park System. To learn more about parks and National Park Service programs in America's communities, visit [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov).





# The Battle of Antietam

On September 15, 1862, Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee positioned his army along a ridge west of Antietam Creek. Confederate Gen. James Longstreet commanded the line's center and right, and Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson held its left. Behind them a Potomac River ford allowed retreat to Virginia. On September 15 and 16 Union Gen. George B. McClellan deployed his forces east of the creek. His plan: attack Lee's left and when "matters looked favorably" attack the Confederate right. Succeeding in either he

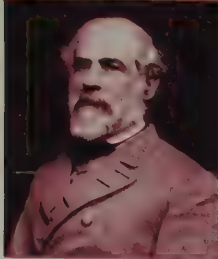
hoped to strike Lee's center. His plan was good but his instructions to commanders ambiguous.

The 12-hour battle began at dawn, September 17. Three morning Union attacks struck the Confederate left, north to south. Gen. Joseph Hooker's First Corps made the initial assault, followed by Gen. Joseph Mansfield's Twelfth Corps. Part of Gen. Edwin Sumner's Second Corps made the final attack. McClellan's battle plan broke down in uncoordinated advances.

From 6 am until 10 am savage combat raged across the Cornfield, East Woods, and West Woods. By late morning fighting shifted toward the Confederate center (Sunken Road) in a three-hour stalemate that left the road forever known as "Bloody Lane." Most contested of the three bridges Union forces used to cross Antietam Creek was the lower. At 10 am Union Gen. Ambrose Burnside's Ninth Corps began its assaults on the Lower Bridge. By 1 pm Federals had driven the Confederates from the bluff overlooking

the creek. Over the next two hours Burnside moved his men across the bridge and deployed them. When he again advanced on the Confederate right, Gen. A.P. Hill's reinforcements, arriving in late afternoon from Harpers Ferry, stopped him. The battle ended about 6 pm. The lines of battle had not shifted significantly from that morning. Of nearly 100,000 soldiers engaged in battle, about 23,000 were killed, wounded, or missing. Late on September 18, Lee forded the Potomac to Virginia. The Union Army held the field.

## CONFEDERATE LEADERSHIP



Robert E. Lee



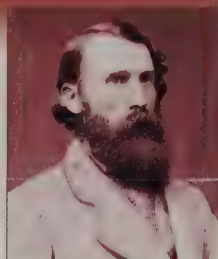
Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson



James Longstreet



Daniel H. Hill



Ambrose P. Hill

## UNION LEADERSHIP



George B. McClellan



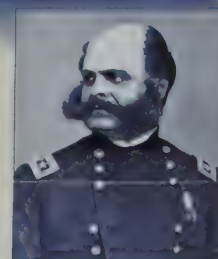
Joseph Hooker



Joseph K.F. Mansfield

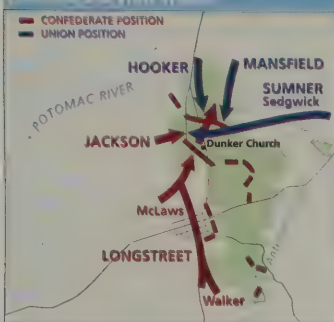


Edwin V. Sumner



Ambrose E. Burnside

## TOURING ANTIETAM BATTLEFIELD



**1 Dunker Church** Built in 1852, this modest house of worship for pacifist German Baptist Brethren became a focal point for Union attacks the morning of the battle.

**2 North Woods** Union Gen. Joseph Hooker's men spent the night before the battle on the Poffenberger farm. At first light the Union attack advanced south from here toward Jackson's lines. "The stars were still shining when [Hooker's] skirmishers became engaged," a soldier would later recall.

**3 East Woods** A small engagement took place in this area the night before the battle. The fighting also opened here early on September 17 as Union and Confederate soldiers exchanged deadly musket volleys, vying to control these woods.

**4 Cornfield** This 24-acre cornfield saw some of U.S. history's most horrific fighting. For nearly three hours Hooker and Mansfield's Union forces battled Jackson's Confederates. Many regiments on both sides were cut to pieces. Hays' Louisiana Brigade suffered over 60-percent casualties in 30 minutes.

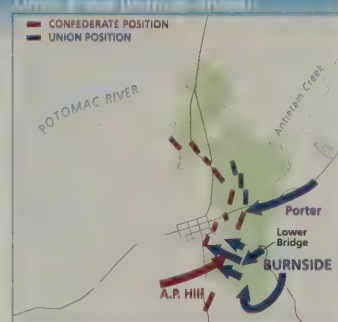
**5 West Woods** Around 9:30 am Gen. Edwin Sumner's Union soldiers advanced into the West Woods. The combined firepower of Confederate artillery and attacking infantry drove them back. In 20 minutes over 2,200 Union soldiers were killed or wounded.

**6 Mumma Farm and Cemetery** The only deliberate destruction of property during the battle was the burning of this farm. Confederate soldiers were ordered to burn these structures to prevent their use by Union sharpshooters. Fortunately, Samuel Mumma and his family had fled to safety before the battle. The Mumma family rebuilt the home in 1863.



**7 Union Advance** During mid-morning nearly 10,000 Union soldiers moved across the Mumma and Roulette farms toward the Confederate center at Sunken Road. Two Union soldiers were awarded Medals of Honor for bravery in these attacks.

**8 Sunken Road (Bloody Lane)** This farm lane served as a breastwork for the Confederate center. For about three hours 2,200 Confederates, later reinforced by additional troops, held off the attacks of a combined Union force numbering nearly 10,000. Finally, just after noon, this thin gray line collapsed and fell back several hundred yards to the Piper Farm. The Union attackers had suffered too many casualties to pursue their advantage. Seeing the dead in the road an observer wrote, "They were lying in rows like the ties of a railroad, in heaps like cordwood mingled with the splintered and shattered fence rails. Words are inadequate to portray the scene."



**9 Lower Bridge (Burnside Bridge)** About 500 Confederate soldiers held the area overlooking the Lower Bridge for three hours. Burnside's command finally captured the bridge and crossed Antietam Creek, which forced the Confederates back toward Sharpsburg.

**10 Final Attack** After taking the Lower Bridge, Burnside moved across these fields from east to west, pushing back the Confederate right flank. Just as it appeared that Lee's line was breaking, Confederate Gen. A.P. Hill's Light Division arrived from Harpers Ferry to drive Burnside back to Antietam Creek.

**11 Antietam National Cemetery** This hill was occupied by Confederate artillery—neither this nor the town cemetery across the road were here in 1862. At first the dead were buried where they fell on the battlefield. Later they were reinterred here, along with Union soldiers who died in combat or in hospitals throughout the region. A total of 4,776 Union soldiers rest here along with dead from four other wars. Separate even in death, Confederate soldiers were buried in Hagerstown and Frederick, Md. and Shepherdstown, Va., now West Virginia.



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**Safety and Regulations** While touring the park stay alert to traffic. Bicyclists should use caution descending hills. Please use trails to minimize contact with stinging nettles, ticks, and snakes. Do not climb on cannon, monuments, fences, or trees. Relic hunting is prohibited.

**More information**  
Antietam National Battlefield  
P.O. Box 158, Sharpsburg, MD 21782  
301-432-5124  
[www.nps.gov/anti](http://www.nps.gov/anti)

Antietam National Battlefield is one of over 390 parks in the National Park System. To learn more about parks and National Park Service programs in America's communities, visit [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov).



## UNION LEADERSHIP



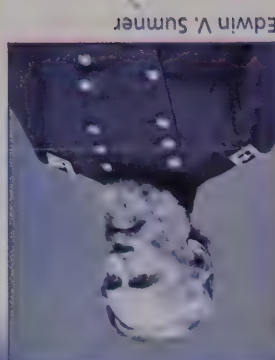
George B. McClellan



Joseph Hooker



Joseph K.F. Mansfield



Edwin V. Sumner



Ambrose E. Burnside

his plan was good but its ambiguous. dawn, September 17. struck the Confederate Hooker's First Corps was by Gen. Joseph Antietam Creek was the lower. At 10 am Union Gen. Ambrose Burnside's Ninth Corps began its assaults on the Lower Bridge. By 1 pm Federals had driven the Confederates from the bluff overlooking

the Cornfield, East Woods, and West Woods. By late morning fighting shifted toward the Confederate center (Sunken Road) in a three-hour stalemate that contested of the three bridges Union forces used to cross Antietam Creek was the lower. At 10 am Union Gen. Ambrose Burnside's Ninth Corps began its assaults on the Lower Bridge. By 1 pm Federals had driven the Confederates from the bluff overlooking

the creek. Over the next two hours Burnside moved his men across the bridge and deployed them. When he again advanced on the Confederate right, Gen. A.P. Hill's reinforcements, arriving in late afternoon from Harpers Ferry, stopped him. The battle ended about 6 pm. The lines of battle had not shifted significantly from that morning. Of nearly 100,000 soldiers engaged in battle, about 23,000 were killed, wounded, or missing. Late on September 18, Lee forced the Potomac to Virginia. The Union Army held the field.

*... is to get out of the way.* —Union Pvt. David L. Thompson

September 17 as Union and Confederate soldiers exchanged deadly musket volleys, vying to control these woods.

**4 Cornfield** This 24-acre cornfield saw some of U.S. history's most horrific fighting. For nearly three hours Hooker and Mansfield's Union forces battled Jackson's Confederates. Many regiments on both sides were cut to pieces. Hays' Louisiana Brigade suffered over 60-percent casualties in 30 minutes.

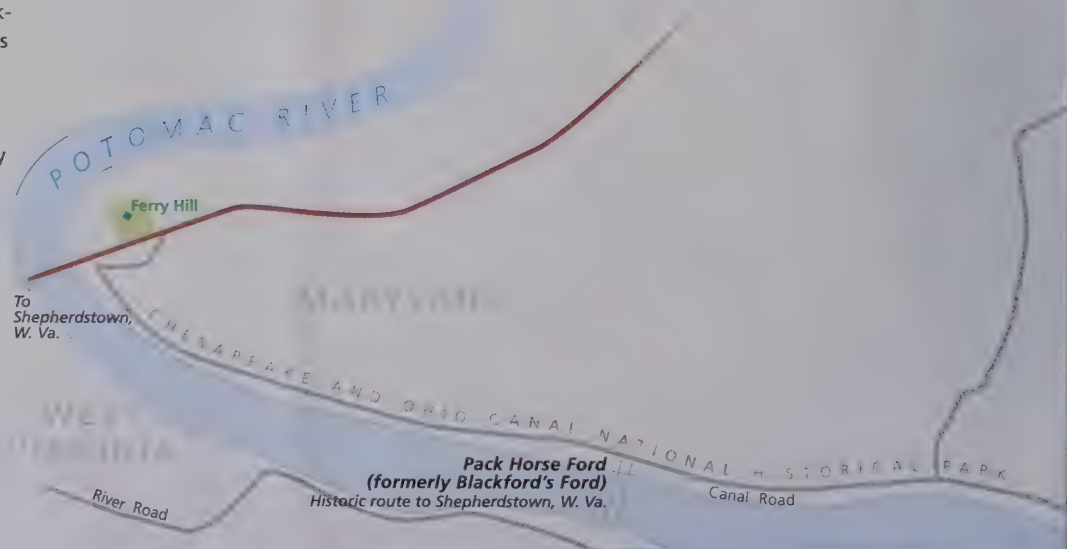
**5 West Woods** Around 9:30 am Gen. Edwin Sumner's Union soldiers advanced into the West Woods. The combined firepower of Confederate artillery and attacking infantry drove them back. In 20 minutes over 2,200 Union soldiers were killed or wounded.

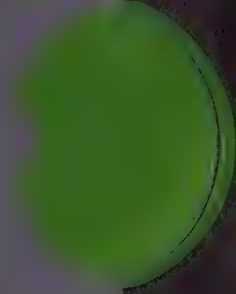
**6 Mumma Farm and Cemetery** The only deliberate destruction of property during the battle was the burning of this farm. Confederate soldiers were ordered to burn these structures to prevent their use by Union sharpshooters. Fortunately, Samuel Mumma and his family had fled to safety before the battle. The Mumma family rebuilt the home in 1863.

attackers had suffered too many casualties to pursue their advantage. Seeing the dead in the road an observer wrote, "They were lying in rows like the ties of a railroad, in heaps like cordwood mingled with the splintered and shattered fence rails. Words are inadequate to portray the scene."

**11 Antietam National Cemetery** This hill was occupied by Confederate artillery—neither this nor the town cemetery across the road were here in 1862. At first the dead were buried where they fell on the battlefield. Later they were reinterred here, along with Union soldiers who died in combat or in hospitals throughout the region. A total of 4,776 Union soldiers rest here along with dead from four other wars. Separate even in death, Confederate soldiers were buried in Hagerstown and Frederick, Md. and Shepherdstown, Va., now West Virginia.

Site of Lee's Headquarters







# Antietam

Antietam National Battlefield  
Maryland

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



Dunker Church



Union Burial Detail



Aftermath of the Battle, Hagerstown Pike



Lower Bridge (Burnside Bridge)

## Antietam: the bloodiest one-day battle of the American Civil War

### CIVIL WAR—EASTERN THEATER HIGHLIGHTS

#### MARYLAND CAMPAIGN

<i>Secession from the Union begins</i> December 1860	<i>Lincoln inaugurated; Confederates attack Fort Sumter</i> March–April 1861	<i>First Battle of Manassas (Bull Run)</i> July 1861	<i>Second Battle of Manassas (Bull Run)</i> August 1862	<i>Battle of Antietam (Sharpsburg)</i> September 1862	<i>Battle of Fredericksburg</i> December 1862	<i>Emancipation Proclamation</i> January 1863	<i>Battle of Chancellorsville</i> May 1863	<i>Battle of Gettysburg</i> July 1863	<i>Battles of Wilderness &amp; Spotsylvania Court House</i> May 1864	<i>Siege of Petersburg</i> June 1864–April 1865	<i>Lee surrenders; Lincoln assassinated</i> April 1865
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A year and a half into the Civil War, Union victory was far from assured. Confederate forces were fighting successfully in the Eastern Theater (comprising operations mainly in Virginia). After his victory at the Second Battle of Manassas (Bull Run), Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee decided to move his army out of war-torn Virginia. On September 4, 1862, he led his over 40,000 Confederates across the Potomac River and through the lush Maryland countryside to Frederick.

Lee's Maryland Campaign—his first foray onto Union soil—was the most significant in a series of loosely coordinated Confederate incursions along a 1,000-mile front. Lee intended to keep

moving north into Pennsylvania, but his line of supply and communication into Virginia was threatened by the 12,500-man Union garrison at Harpers Ferry, Va. (now West Virginia). Lee therefore divided his army to neutralize this threat. Part of Gen. James Longstreet's command went to Hagerstown, Md., close to Pennsylvania. Three columns led by Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson surrounded Harpers Ferry and held Crampton Gap on South Mountain (see map at right). A third force, Gen. D.H. Hill's command, guarded the South Mountain gaps near Boonsboro, Md.

On September 12, Union Gen. George B. McClellan led the Army of the Potomac into Frederick,

#### PRELUDE TO THE BATTLE OF ANTIETAM (SHARPSBURG)



Md., just as the last Confederate soldiers were departing. Over the next few days a chain of events would draw all of these men together for the bloodiest one-day battle of the Civil War.

On September 13 a Union soldier found a copy of Lee's Special Order 191, his plan of operations for the campaign. This "Lost Order," as it has become known, was taken to McClellan, who realized that this was the time to strike Lee's divided forces. On the morning of September 14, Union soldiers engaged Confederates guarding the gaps on South Mountain. The day-long battle ended with the Confederates being forced from the gaps.

Lee considered returning to Virginia, but on September 15, after learning that Harpers Ferry had fallen, he reevaluated his plans. He would make a stand at Sharpsburg, Md., a quiet, 100-year-old farming community of some 1,200 residents.

*That night we lay in line of battle behind a small brick church called the Dunkers Church, situated on the Hagerstown Turnpike, with arms, and ready to move at any moment*

—William Snakenberg  
Private, 14th Louisiana

### MARYLAND CAMPAIGN

Union General McClellan placed in command and leads army out of Washington, D.C. September 2–5, 1862  
Confederate General Lee crosses Potomac and marches to Frederick, Md. September 4–6, 1862  
Confederates move toward Boonsboro, Hagerstown, and Maryland Heights September 10, 1862  
Union forces arrive in Frederick September 12, 1862  
McClellan obtains a copy of Lee's operations plan, Special Order 191 September 13, 1862  
Battle of South Mountain; Union takes Crampton, Fox, and Turners gaps; siege of Harpers Ferry September 14, 1862  
Harpers Ferry surrenders; Lee orders concentration of his army at Sharpsburg September 15, 1862  
Union troops cross Antietam Creek, engage Lee's left, 6 pm September 16, 1862  
Battle of Antietam (Sharpsburg) September 17, 1862  
Lee withdraws his army; recrosses Potomac River at Blackford's Ford Evening, September 18, 1862  
Battle of Shepherdstown September 19–20, 1862  
Lincoln issues the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation September 22, 1862  
Lincoln visits Union Army in and around Sharpsburg October 1–4, 1862

### Aftermath and Significance

For the people of Sharpsburg, the battle and presence of thousands of soldiers caused sickness and death from disease, and great property damage. Antietam made feasible the Emancipation Proclamation and reshaped the logistics of field medicine. It also influenced how the nation would memorialize battlefields in the future.



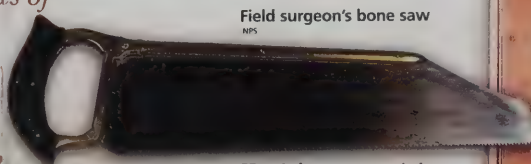
Sharpsburg Lutheran Church was damaged in the battle.



Seeing the bandages, lanterns, and food Clara Barton (above) brought to his Antietam hospital, Surgeon Charles Dunn christened her "The Angel of the Battlefield." In 1881 Barton founded the American Red Cross. She not only provided neutral assistance to soldiers in war but conceived and put into practice the provision of aid to civilians after natural disasters.

*"Comrades with wounds of all conceivable shapes were brought in and placed side by side as thick as they could lay, and the bloody work of amputation commenced."*

—Union Soldier George Allen



Field surgeon's bone saw

Hospitals were set up in barns, churches, homes, and make-shift tents (below) to care for over 17,000 wounded soldiers. The Hagerstown newspaper called the area "one vast hospital."



The battle created a legion of amputees (above). The shovel (far right) buried many dead, who often awaited burial for days, laid out (right) as though they died in their battle ranks.



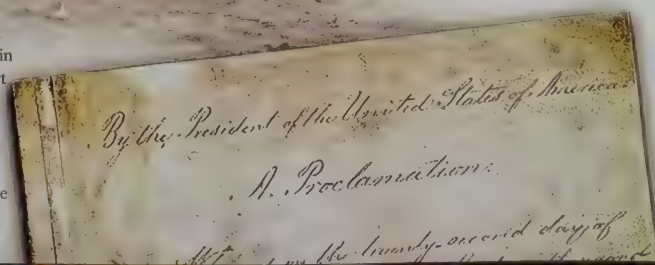
A revolution in combat medical care was put in place just weeks before this battle. Dr. Jonathan Letterman, chief medical officer, Union Army of the Potomac, established an ambulance corps to evacuate the wounded. He also adopted triage—a system of prioritizing casualties by the severity of their wounds.



Bridge planks mark temporary Union graves at Lower Bridge

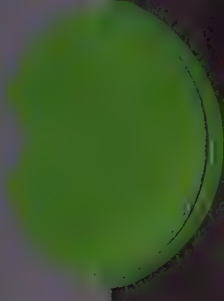
Immediately after the battle over 3,500 dead were buried in farm fields surrounding Sharpsburg (background photo at right). Eventually Confederate soldiers were moved to three local cemeteries. Union men were re-interred in Antietam National Cemetery, their names (if known) recorded in the book at right.

The Emancipation Proclamation (right), released January 1, 1863, reshaped the war, freeing slaves in states in rebellion and giving the Union war effort two goals: preserve the Union and end slavery. Slaves could flee to Union camps and freedom or even join U.S. fighting forces. Lee's repulse at Antietam enabled the proclamation, and the two events kept Great Britain from intervening for the Confederacy.



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**Fall Photograph**

Hop Meadow Cemetery  
Simsbury Center Cemetery or

759 Hop Meadow Street  
Simsbury, CT



**Winter Photograph**



Graves  
Hep. Haden  
Cemetery





MEMORIAL  
OF  
MARVIN WAIT,

(1st Lieutenant Eighth Regiment C. V.,)

Killed at the Battle of Antietam,

SEPTEMBER 17th, 1862.

WRITTEN BY

JACOB EATON,

(Formerly 1st Lieutenant Eighth Regiment C. V.)



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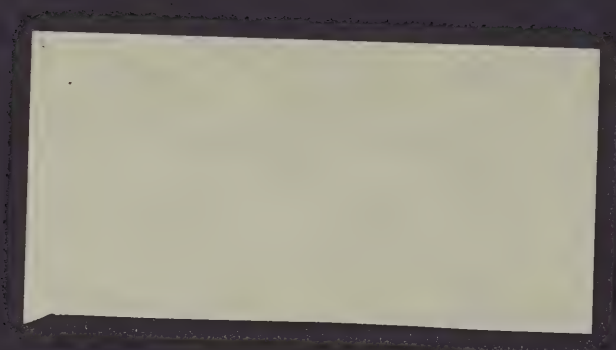
1863.

See Pages 8-9



See Pages 8-9





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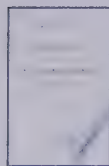
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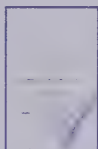
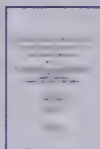
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FROM  
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This Memorial of Lieutenant WAIT was originally written for *The Connecticut War Record*, but thinking that the family and friends of the deceased might derive a mournful pleasure from having it in a separate form, the writer has added to the original sketch, and publishes it as a tribute of respect to a brave and deserving companion in arms.

Biographical sketches of the noble men who have fallen in this struggle for national unity and existence, will be of much interest in future years. They will impart valuable lessons, and inspire to noble deeds.

J. E.





## MEMORIAL.

---

MARVIN WAIT, the son of John T. Wait, was born at Norwich, January 21, 1843. He received a thorough academical education at the Free Academy in Norwich, and at the Williston Academy in East Hampton, Massachusetts, with the intention of preparing himself to pursue the profession of law,—[the profession of his father, and also of his grandfather, Judge Marvin Wait, of New London, after whom he was named.] He made such proficiency in his studies, that he entered Union College, at Schenectady, in the fall of 1860. Possessing a vigorous mind and tenacious memory, he made rapid progress in his collegiate course. He remained in college till near the close of the second term, Freshman year, when, his health failing him, he returned home, and in March, 1861, went to Europe. He passed nearly five months in this tour, visiting Belgium, Holland, and the North of England. On his return from Europe he was very solicitous to enter the army, but was finally induced to resume his course in college in the fall of 1861. But he was not willing to remain a mere spectator of the great struggle for national unity



and life. His noble heart kindled with a manly, unselfish desire to aid in defending and perpetuating our Republican Democracy. He remained but a short time in college, when he and several other students withdrew, and entered the army. Immediately after returning home, he enlisted as a private soldier in Captain Ward's Company, (D,) Eighth Regiment Connecticut Volunteers. At Jamaica, Long Island, he was detailed to act as orderly for Colonel Harland. At Annapolis, Maryland, he was promoted to be Second Lieutenant in Company A, of his regiment, and was immediately detached as a "signal officer," in which capacity he distinguished himself for his readiness to acquire, and for the rapidity and correctness with which he discharged the duties of his appointment. "He served as a member of the 'signal corps' at the battle of Roanoke Island, on Burnside's flag-ship, and at the reduction of Fort Macon," in which engagement he was commended as follows, in the official report of Lieutenant Andrews:

"I was the only officer on Beaufort Station until the 27th inst., when Lieutenant MARVIN WAIT reported for duty. My station was at a right angle with the line of fire, so that I was enabled to judge with accuracy the distance over or short a shot fell. The ten-inch shell were falling almost without exception more than three hundred yards beyond the Fort. Lieutenant WAIT and myself continued to signal to the officer in charge until the correct range was obtained. The eight-inch shell were falling short—we signaled to the officer in charge





of that battery with the same effect. The same was the case with the battery of Parrott guns, which was too much elevated. From the position of our batteries, it was impossible for the officers in charge to *see* how their shots fell, but owing to the observations made by Lieutenant WARR and myself, and signaled to them from time to time, an accurate range was obtained by all the batteries, and was not lost during the day. *After 12 M. every shot fired from our batteries fell in or on the Fort.* At 4 o'clock, P. M., a white flag appeared on the Fort. The proposition to surrender, and the reply, with terms of capitulation, were sent to and from General Burnside, through this station, by Lieutenant WARR and myself." \*

He served under Burnside during his whole campaign in North Carolina, winning everywhere the good opinions of his comrades, and the praise of his superior officers. His versatile talents, his well-stored memory, his vivid imagination, ready command of language, pleasing manners, and frank, generous disposition, rendered him a favorite with the officers and men of his regiment. As an officer, he was prompt, firm, fearless, and patriotic.

When a part of the Ninth Army Corps, under General Burnside, left North Carolina, on July 6th, 1862, Lieutenant WARR returned to his company, having been commissioned a short time before as First Lieuten-

---

\* The father of the deceased has in his possession a very beautiful "battle flag," awarded to his son by the head of the Signal Department for meritorious conduct in the reduction of Fort Macon.



ant. He returned to Norwich a short time after with the body of Lieutenant BREED, who was detached from his regiment, (the Eighth Connecticut Volunteers,) for service on the "signal corps," and who died at Newport News, Va., in the beginning of an honorable, valiant, patriotic career. Lieutenant WATT rejoined his regiment at Fredericksburg, just before it evacuated that place. He was ever found with his company at the post of duty and of danger in the arduous and eventful campaign in Maryland. He never required his men to endure hardships which he was unwilling to share, nor to face dangers in which he was afraid to participate. The firmness, intelligence, and loyalty peculiar to the sons of New England, were strongly developed in his character, and exhibited in his army life. He possessed those qualities which would have rendered him successful and celebrated in the profession for which he was preparing himself.

We will now briefly consider the closing scenes in his noble life.

During the terrible and mighty conflict at Antietam, his courage, valor, and patriotism, reached their sad but sublime consummation. Here he wrote his claim to honor and gratitude with his own blood. He wrote so deeply and indelibly that the hand of time will never erase it. Being under fire on the morning of the 17th of September, a ball from a rebel battery struck in the midst of his company, killing three men, and severely wounding another. Lieutenant WATT was covered with





blood and earth. The shot produced some confusion in the company, and several of the men commenced giving way. The brave fellow sprung to his feet amid a shower of bullets, and ordered every man back to his post, in the most gallant manner. After this, our regiment occupied a hill crest, on the north side of the Antietam, till nearly 5 o'clock, P. M. We then crossed the historic stream preparatory to charging upon the enemy's right flank. As we ascended the precipitous ridge which skirts the Antietam on the south, I saw and saluted Lieutenant Warr. As the company to which he belonged was next to the one on the extreme left, and my own next to the one on the extreme right flank, we seldom saw each other on the march. But as the regiment was here countermarched, we passed each other. This took place less than an hour before he was killed. The expression which rested upon his countenance, and his whole manner, are indelibly fixed in my mind. The manly, heroic, determined fire of his eye, and the battle smile of loyalty which rested upon his youthful face, told how sublime was his purpose, how great was his devotion to country. He comprehended the important and stupendous issues of the conflict. He gave all that he could give to the cause of Justice, Law, and Liberty—his young and promising life.

Permit me to briefly refer in this connection to the sanguinary and unsuccessful charge in which Lieutenant Warr and hundreds of other Connecticut men fell bravely fighting. At half past five o'clock Rodman's



Division of the Ninth Corps was ordered to carry the enemy's position on their extreme right. We had to ascend several parallel ridges of considerable elevation before reaching the rebel lines. The enemy poured a furious and galling cross-fire upon us from two batteries as we were massed at the foot of the first ridge awaiting the disposition of our artillery. The enemy had all the advantage of position, and as their lines were hidden by the hill crests, we could not determine their real strength. After our batteries in advance engaged those of the enemy, we moved on the double-quick over the first ridge, and took a position at the foot of the second. The advancing lines, which consisted of two brigades, here halted preparatory to making the final assault. The rebel host was but a few rods in advance. The First Brigade (Hawkin's) was to charge; the Second Brigade (Harland's) was to act as a reserve. The Eighth and the Sixteenth Connecticut were in the Second Brigade. Beyond the crest which covered our lines was a slight depression or hollow, bounded by another gentle ridge in advance; then came an open lot, skirted by a cornfield to the left, toward the Antietam. On the opposite side of the open field, behind an embankment formed by the road which runs up to Sharpsburg, was posted a rebel brigade. In the cornfield to the left was concealed another rebel brigade. These lines were strongly supported. Thus our slender line was exposed to a murderous fire on the front and on the flank. And it is well known that many of the regiments previously





repulsed on the enemy's left were afterwards massed upon their right, to meet the very charge which we finally made. *Every one who confronted the rebels in the charge upon their right knows that we only failed for want of support.* As the First Brigade became engaged with the enemy, a simultaneous flash of fire and roll of musketry with the terrific thunder of nearly three hundred pieces of artillery blazed and crashed from the right to the left of both armies, a distance of four miles. It was a scene sublimely and terribly grand. The First Brigade was soon swept away by a withering fire. Our brigade was then ordered to advance into the harvest of death. On we pressed over the wounded, dying, dead, and halting within twenty rods of the enemy, poured upon their exultant masses a storm of defiance and death. Shot, and shell, and musket balls hurtled, screamed and hissed through the air. The Sixteenth Connecticut, which was next on our left, did all they could do, and that was little. Having entered the field but a few days before, unused to movements in line under fire, and becoming massed together within a few yards of a concealed foe, they were soon forced, broken and bleeding, back. (The men stood nobly and fought as well and as long as they could.)\* The Fourth Rhode Island gave away for some reasons best known by themselves.

---

\* It was asserted by some of the officers and men on the left of our regiment, that the enemy raised the *National Flag*, above the tall, rank corn, thereby deceiving and fatally entrapping the Sixteenth Regiment. I passed the order, at one time, to those on my right, to "cease firing," as we were firing on our friends.



It may seem like interested praise to some, but history permits me to say truthfully that the old Eighth seemed to be fired with immortal courage on the crimsoned heights of Antietam. Its record shows that one half its number there fell either killed or wounded. In vain this out-flanked, decimated regiment tried to roll back the living tide which set against them. Volley after volley they poured into the very front and face of the exultant enemy. Deeds of valor, unwavering courage, even desperation of purpose, could not press back the foe.\* Among the bravest who there fought and fell was Lieutenant WAIT. "Just before he was wounded he was seen closing up the ranks of his company and dressing them in line as deliberately as though on dress parade." Capt. Coit, an accomplished officer and most reliable man, wrote as follows, soon after the battle, concerning Lieutenant WAIT's death: "The Chaplain took Lieutenant WAIT to a sheltered spot under the fence," (about five rods in rear of the line,) "and after looking at his wounds left him, telling him he would send an ambulance as soon as possible, supposing that we should be able to hold the field till reinforcements arrived to drive back the rebels. If Lieutenant WAIT had only left the battle of his own accord when first hit in the arm, all would have been well, but he bravely stood to encourage his men still further by his own example, and

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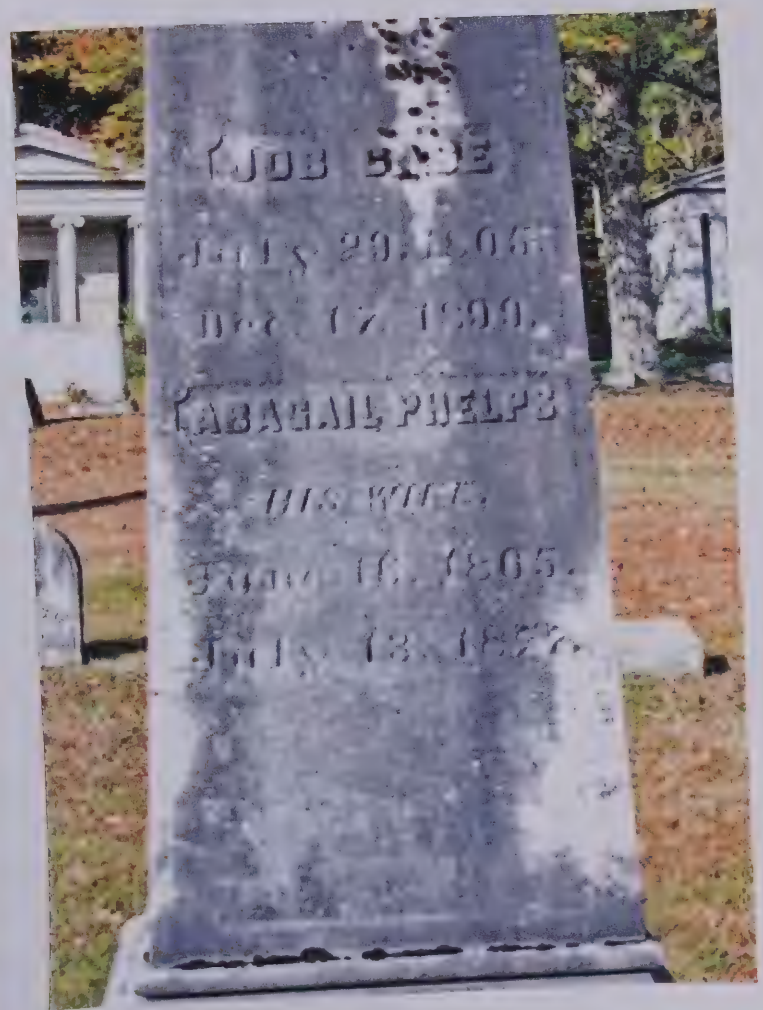
\* While the rebels were being constantly reinforced on their right by regiments and brigades drawn from their left, not a man nor a battery was sent to our relief. Our men, after being outflanked and severely pressed in front, withdrew slowly and in good order, firing as they went.





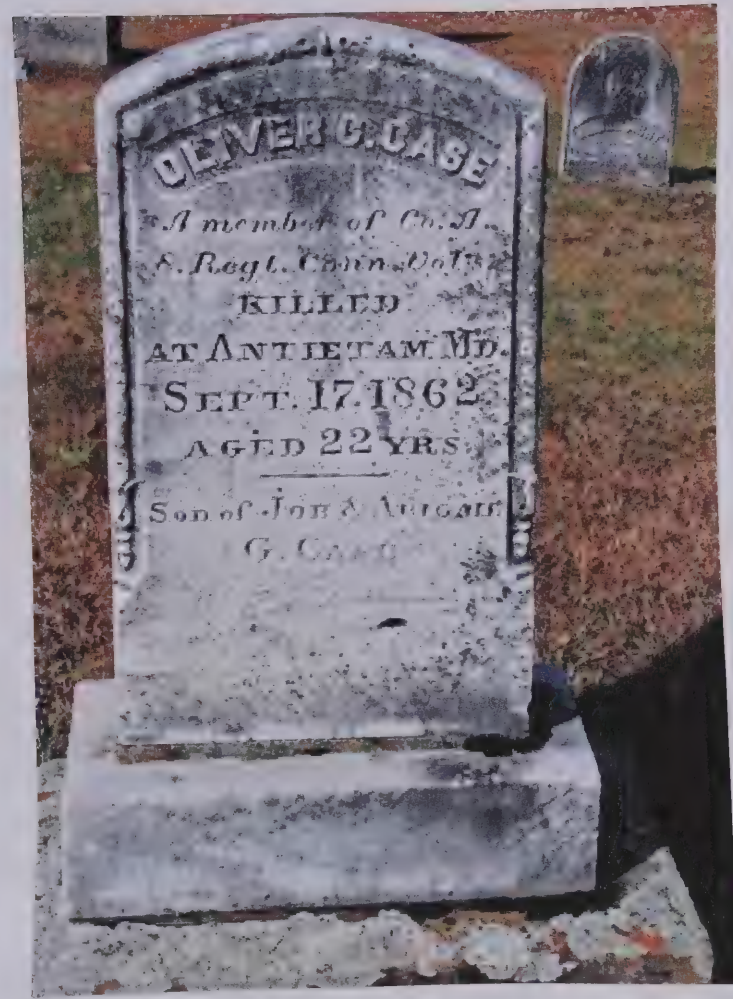
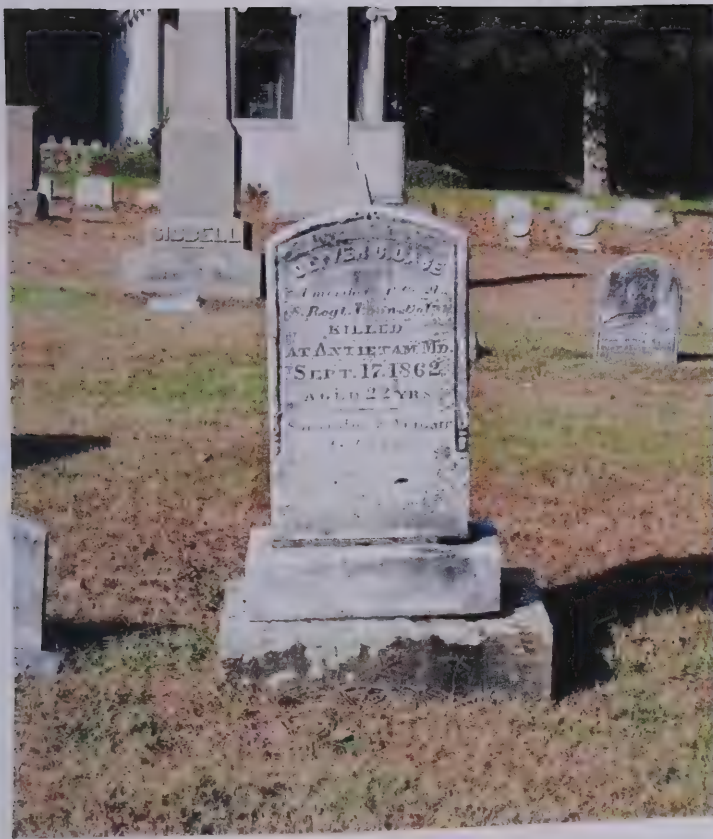
OL Case  
Deaths & Burial











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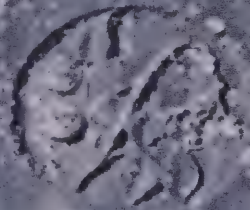


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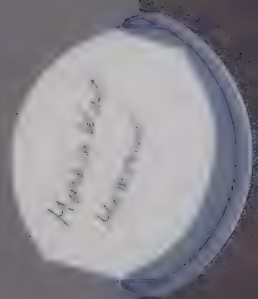
MARY F. THOMPSON  
WIFE OF  
ARIEL J. CASE  
1835 — 1922

ARIEL J. CASE  
LIEUT 16<sup>th</sup> CONN. VOLS  
1831 — 1875

  
FANNIE ABBY  
DAUGHTER OF  
ARIEL J. & MARY F. CASE  
BORN JAN. 6, 1857  
DIED FEB. 16, 1859









## Richard Converse

---

**From:** Richard Converse <brconverse@comporium.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 7, 2015 10:35 PM  
**To:** brconverse@comporium.net  
**Subject:** Alonzo's statement for his fathers pension

### Summary: Job Case Request for Oliver Case's Pension

**Job Case** filed for the pension of **Oliver Case**, his youngest son, on January 15, 1883. Two of his friends, **A. L. F. Thurston and Thomas Adams**, were identifying witnesses and stated they are acquainted with him and knew that he was the father of Oliver.

The claimants, **Job** and his wife **Abigail**, stated that they were the father and mother of the soldier who died leaving no widow or children surviving him.

Also, identifying witnesses, **Lewis Tallmadge and Rachel Tallmadge**, swore that they had been acquainted with the claimants and the deceased for seven years: that they knew the claimants to be the father and mother of the soldier and that the soldier died leaving no widow or child surviving him.

The quarterly return of deceased soldiers reported **Oliver C. Case**, Co. A, 8th Conn. Vols. Was killed in the battle at Antietam, Md, Sept.17, 1863 (sic) [actually he was killed in 1862].

At Simsbury, Connecticut, County of Hartford **Alonzo G. Case** aged 54 and residence and post office in Simsbury, Hartford Co., Conn prepared a General Affidavit on April 10th, 1889.

In it he stated that **Job Case** lost all his property in 1860 and has not owned any since. **Oliver C. Case**, his only unmarried son went into service in 1862 (sic) [actually he went into service in 1861]. In July, 1862 his two remaining sons went into service and were in the battle of Antietam where **Oliver Case** was killed.





Job Case in December 1862 went to Antietam and got the body of his son **Oliver**. Taking what money **Oliver** had left with his parents for their support and borrowing from friends without security for he had none to give.”

“When **Job Case** lost his property in 1860 he was obliged to leave the house where he and his father were born and so in 1866 after my return from the service I with mother’s help bought back the old homestead so they might return to it and die there. We had but little money. Mother had about \$240 that she got from her father. We mortgaged it heavily (sic) and having bought it at a high price it is not worth today more than the mortgage and would be glad to get it off my hands but cannot until the death of Job Case. Mother died in July 1877. Father was very sick in summer of 1863 in July, August & Sept. I came home on leave in Sept. They wrote me he would never be any better. He had Rhumatism (sic) so he is all bowed over and has not been able to work hard since he has scarcely (sic) had a Doctor since and works every day. But I do not think he has done enough for five years to pay his board. I am now the only living son and I am poor and broken down in health since my prison life of 10 months and 10 days.”

“Job Case was born July 29, 1805.”

“I further declare that I have interest in said case, and am concerned in its prosecution for I am his son.”

Signed “**Alonzo G. Case**”

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No virus found in this message.

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Version: 2016.0.7858 / Virus Database: 4664/13194 - Release Date: 10/12/16



## **Epilogue**

### **Jefferson Davis' Presidency, Flight and Capture**

Davis was elected to a six-year term as President of the Confederacy on November 6, 1861. He was inaugurated on February 18, 1861. Virginia switched from neutrality and joined the Confederacy, he moved his government to Richmond, Virginia, in May 1861.

On April 3, 1865, with Union troops under Ulysses S. Grant poised to capture Richmond, the President of the Confederacy, Jefferson Davis, escaped for Danville, Virginia, together with the Confederate Cabinet, leaving on the Richmond and Danville Railroad. He issued his last official proclamation as President of the Confederacy, and then went south to Greensboro, North Carolina. Circa April 12, where he received Robert E. Lee's letter announcing surrender.

#### **South Carolina Historical Markers tell the rest of Jefferson Davis' story:**

Marker Title: Last Confederate Cabinet Meeting,  
Marker Located in Fort Mill, SC

"In route South, President [Jefferson] Davis and his cabinet, hospitably received at Fort Mill, spent the night of April 26, 1865 at the homes of Col. Andrew Baxter Springs and of Col. Wm. Elliott White.... [On] Col. White's lawn, April 27, 1865, the cabinet held its last meeting...."

Marker Title: Jefferson Davis' Flight,  
Marker Located in South of Fort Mill, SC

"Having crossed the Catawba [River] at Nation Ford, April 27, 1865, The President of the Confederacy fled south along this road following the fall of Richmond. He was accompanied by the remaining members of his cabinet and a detachment of cavalry under Gen. John C. Breckinridge."

Marker Title: Jefferson Davis's Flight,  
Marker Located in York, SC

"Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy, spent the night of April 27, 1865, in the home of Dr. James Rufus Bratton. Davis, in danger of capture and arrest by Federal troops, was attempting to reach some remnant of the Confederate Army in the South or West with which he could find protection and continue the War."

Marker Title: Cross Keys House,  
Marker Located 10 miles SW of Union, SC

"On April 30, 1865, during the retreat from Richmond, Virginia, Jefferson Davis passed through Cross Keys, S.C. accompanied by the Confederate cabinet and his military escort of five brigades. Mrs. Mary Whitmire Davis, who owned the Cross Keys House ... related ... the story of President Davis's luncheon at the house."

Marker Title: Jefferson Davis' Flight,  
Marker Located about 2.5 miles SW of Joanna, SC





“President of the Confederacy, Jefferson Davis, on his flight from Richmond, Va., spent the night of April 30, 1865 with his cabinet and other high-ranking officers at the home Lafayette Young 1 1/2 miles west. Davis arrived there from \_\_\_\_\_ and left early next morning for Cokesbury and Abbeville.”

Marker Title: Jefferson Davis’s Flight,  
Marker Located in Abbeville, SC

“Here at the home of Colonel Burt, President Jefferson Davis held the last Confederate Council of War on May 2, 1865.... Though Davis passed safely through South Carolina, he was seized in Georgia on May 10th.”

“President Jefferson Davis met with his Confederate Cabinet for the last time on May 5, 1865 in Washington, Georgia, and the Confederate Government was officially dissolved. The meeting took place at the Heard house, the Georgia Branch Bank Building, with fourteen officials present. He was captured on May 10, 1865 at Irwinville in Irwin County, Georgia. After being captured, he was held as a prisoner for two years in Fort Monroe, Virginia.”









# **Connecticut--8th Regiment Infantry**

**Organized at Hartford September 21, 1861.**

**Left State for Annapolis, Md., October 17.**

**Attached to Parke's Third Brigade, Burnside's Expeditionary Corps, to April, 1862.**

**1st Brigade, 3rd Division, Dept. of North Carolina, to July, 1862.**

**2nd Brigade, 3rd Division, 9th Army Corps, Army of the Potomac, to April, 1863. 2nd Brigade, 2nd Division, 7th Army Corps, Department of Virginia, to July, 1863. 2nd Brigade, Getty's Division, United States forces, Portsmouth, Va., Dept. Virginia and North Carolina to January, 1864. Sub-District Albemarle, N. C., Dept. of Virginia and North Carolina, to April, 1864. 2nd Brigade, 1st Division, 18th Army Corps, Dept. of Virginia and North Carolina, to August, 1864. Provost Guard, 18th Army Corps to December, 1864. Provost Guard, 24th Army Corps, Dept. of Virginia to February, 1865. 2nd Brigade, 3rd Division, 24th Army Corps, to July, 1865. 2nd Provisional Brigade, 24th Army Corps, to August, 1865. Dept. of Virginia to December, 1865.**

**SERVICE.--Duty at Annapolis, Md., until January 6, 1862.**

**Burnside's expedition to Hatteras Inlet and Roanoke Island, N. C., January 7-February 8, 1862.**

**Battle of Roanoke Island February 8. At Roanoke Island until March 11.**

**Moved to New Berne, N. C., March 11-13. Battle of Newberne March 14.**

**Operations against Fort Macon March 23-April 26.**

**Skirmish Fort Macon April 12. Capture of Fort Macon April 26.**

**Duty at New Berne until July.**

**Moved to Morehead City July 2,**

**thence to Newport News, Va., July 3-5 and duty there until August 1.**

**Moved to Fredericksburg, Va., August 1-5 and duty there until August 31.**

**Moved to Brooks' Station, thence to Washington, D.C., August 31-**

**September 3. Maryland Campaign September-October Frederick, Md.,**

**September 12. Turner's Gap, South Mountain, September 14.**

**Battle of Antietam September 16-17.**



## History of the Eighth Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Infantry

Written by J.H. Vaill, Late Quartermaster-Sergeant Eighth Connecticut Volunteers

The Eighth Regiment was **organized at Camp Buckingham, Hartford**, in September, 1861. It was commanded by Colonel Edward Harland of Norwich, who had recently returned from a three months' service in the field as a Captain in the Third Regiment.

The regiment **left Hartford** October 17th, and for a fortnight was in camp of instruction at **Jamaica, L.I.** November 1st it **proceeded to Annapolis**. Early in January, 1862, the Eighth **sailed with the Burnside Expedition**. The Confederate forces on Roanoke Island were attacked February 7th, where the Eighth suffered no loss, being held in reserve. After a **month's stay at Roanoke Island**, Burnside's forces **moved toward Newbern**, by transports to **Slocum's Creek** (about eighteen miles below the city), thence marching up the south bank of the Neuse to the city's line of defense.

The **attack upon the defenses of Newbern** (March 14th) was made at an early hour, and the Eighth assisted in the capture of about five hundred Confederate troops. This was the regiment's first baptism of blood. It's killed were Privates Phelps of Company B and Patterson of Company I, with four wounded. The personal bravery of Colonel Harland amid the whistling bullets of Newbern, together with his skill and cool-headedness as a tactician, and his evident desire to shield his men from harm whenever possible, gave them a confidence in him which was never afterward shaken.

The next move of the regiment was March 19th - to **engage in the siege of Fort Macon**; by steamer to **Slocum's Creek**, thence marching down the railroad. The siege of Fort Macon terminated during the last week in April by the surrender of the Confederate garrison - forced to such decision by the bombardment of Union batteries, which were supported by the Eighth. During the greater portion of the siege, - Colonel Harland being prostrated by typhoid fever - the regiment was under command of Major Appelman, who received a painful though not dangerous wound from a canister shot.

Soon after the surrender of Fort Macon, the Eighth **returned by steamer to Newbern**, where it enjoyed two months of rest and recuperation. On the 2d of July the regiment **went by rail to Morehead City**, thence by **steamer "Admiral" to Newport News, Va.**, where it encamped during the remainder of the month. On the first of August, in company with the Eleventh Connecticut, the Eighth **went by transport to Aquia Creek**, thence by **rail to Fredericksburg**, going into camp in front of the Lacy House, across the river from the city, where the month of August was spent, the regiment doing **picket duty every other day to the westward of Fredericksburg**.

With the first of September came the evacuation of Fredericksburg by the Union troops, which were **ordered to Washington**, where the Eighth arrived on the 3d. The regiment **rested in bivouac on Capitol Hill** until the 8th, when **commenced the march which led to the battle of Antietam** (September 17th), by which brought to the Eighth a severer loss than was occasioned by any other action during the war. Its total loss in that





# Connecticut

## 8th Regiment Infantry

Organized at Hartford September 21, 1861. Left State for Annapolis, Md., October 17. Attached to Parke's Third Brigade, Burnside's Expeditionary Corps, to April, 1862. 1st Brigade, 3rd Division, Dept. of North Carolina, to July, 1862. 2nd Brigade, 3rd Division, 9th Army Corps, Army of the Potomac, to April, 1863. 2nd Brigade, 2nd Division, 7th Army Corps, Department of Virginia, to July, 1863. 2nd Brigade, Getty's Division, United States forces, Portsmouth, Va., Dept. Virginia and North Carolina to January, 1864. Sub-District Albemarle, N. C., Dept. of Virginia and North Carolina, to April, 1864. 2nd Brigade, 1st Division, 18th Army Corps, Dept. of Virginia and North Carolina, to August, 1864. Provost Guard, 18th Army Corps to December, 1864. Provost Guard, 24th Army Corps, Dept. of Virginia to February, 1865. 2nd Brigade, 3rd Division, 24th Army Corps, to July, 1865. 2nd Provisional Brigade, 24th Army Corps, to August, 1865. Dept. of Virginia to December, 1865.

**SERVICE.**--Duty at Annapolis, Md., until January 6, 1862. Burnside's expedition to Hatteras Inlet and Roanoke Island, N. C., January 7-February 8, 1862. Battle of Roanoke Island February 8. At Roanoke Island until March 11. Moved to New Berne, N. C., March 11-13. Battle of Newberne March 14. Operations against Fort Macon March 23-April 26. Skirmish Fort Macon April 12. Capture of Fort Macon April 26. Duty at New Berne until July. Moved to Morehead City July 2, thence to Newport News, Va., July 3-5 and duty there until August 1. Moved to Fredericksburg, Va., August 1-5 and duty there until August 31. Moved to Brooks' Station, thence to Washington, D.C., August 31-September 3. Maryland Campaign September-October Frederick, Md., September 12. Turner's Gap, South Mountain, September 14. Battle of Antietam September 16-17. Duty in Pleasant Valley until October 27. Movement to Falmouth, Va., October 27-November 19. Battle of Fredericksburg, Va., December 12-15. Burnside's 2nd Campaign, "Mud March," January 20-24, 1863. Moved to Newport News February 6-9, thence to Suffolk March 13. Siege of Suffolk April 12-May 4. Fort Huger, April 19. Edenton Road April 24. Nansemond River May 3. Siege of Suffolk raised May 4. Dix's Peninsula Campaign June 24-July 7. Expedition from White House to South Anna River July 1-7. Moved to Portsmouth, Va., and duty there until March, 1864. Expedition to South Mills October 12-14, 1863. Outpost duty at Deep Creek March 13 to April 18, 1864. Moved to Yorktown April 18-21. Butler's operations on south side of the James and against Petersburg and Richmond May 4-28. Occupation of City Point and Bermuda Hundred May 5. Port Waltham Junction, Chester Station, May 7. Swift Creek, or Arrow field Church, May 9-10. Operations against Fort Darling May 12-16. Battle of Drewry's Bluff May 14-16. On Bermuda Hundred front May 17-27. Moved to White House Landing, thence to Cold Harbor, May 27-June 1. Battles about Cold Harbor June 1-12. Assaults on Petersburg June 15-18. Siege operations against Petersburg and Richmond June 16, 1864, to April 2, 1865. Mine explosion Petersburg, July 30, 1864 (Reserve). On Bermuda Hundred front August 25-September 27. Fort Harrison, New Market Heights, September 28-29. Chaffin's Farm, September 29-30. Duty in trenches before Richmond until April, 1865. Battle of Fair Oaks October 27-28, 1864. Occupation of Richmond April 3 and duty there and at Lynchburg, Va., until December. Mustered out December, 1865.

Regiment lost during service 8 Officers and 112 Enlisted men killed and mortally wounded and 3 Officers and 141 Enlisted men by disease. Total 264.









at last nobly fell pierced by bullet after bullet." Major Ward, of the Eighth, wrote as follows to the afflicted parents: "When first wounded he was advised to leave, but would not, and before leaving received three shots. I think, however, that his mortal wound was received while being taken to the rear. The loss of your son is a great one to the regiment. No officer could have been more popular, either with the men or with his brother officers. By his soldierly qualities, good spirits and easy manners he had endeared himself to every one in the least acquainted with him. He died in a good cause, and like a brave man." Captain Hoyt, of Co. A, said in a letter to the parents of the deceased, "Lieutenant MARVIN WAIT fell at his post while urging on his men into that terrible storm of shot and shell. He was a brave, noble-hearted man, and highly esteemed by all who knew him." The unflinching hero was first wounded in the right arm, which was shattered. He then dropped his sword to his left hand; he was afterwards wounded in the left arm, in the leg, and in the abdomen. He was then assisted to leave the line by private King, who soon met Mr. Morris, the brave, indefatigable Chaplain of the Eighth Regiment. The Chaplain then conducted Lieutenant WAIT to the fence before alluded to, and private King returned to his company. Lieutenant WAIT's last words to private King were, "ARE WE WHIPPING THEM?"\* A braver man

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\* As the enemy advanced on the left flank of our regiment, they delivered an enfilading fire. It was under this fire that Lieutenant WAIT was pierced by a minnie ball, (while laying ~~down~~ wounded behind a low wall, ) which passed through his lungs from side to side.



than MARVIN WAIT never confronted a foe; a more generous heart never beat: a more unselfish patriot never fell. Connecticut may well cherish and honor the memory of such sons.

The following Resolutions, expressing the high esteem in which Lieutenant WAIT was held as an officer and companion, and tendering the highest regard and deepest sympathy to the family of the deceased, were adopted, after appropriate remarks, by the officers of the Eighth Regiment, at Pleasant Valley, Md., Oct. 10, 1862:\*

WHEREAS, It hath pleased the Ruler of the Universe to remove from our number Lieutenant MARVIN WAIT, an officer whose character for strict integrity, honesty of purpose, and devotion to the cause in which he was engaged, was only equaled by those warm social qualities which were ever the admiration of his many friends, and in token of our regard for the memory of the deceased, we record these, our Resolutions:

*Resolved*, That it is with feelings of deep and unfeigned sorrow that we deplore the death of Lieutenant MARVIN WAIT, one of our most worthy officers, who, by the strictest care and closest diligence to his various duties, gave character and prominence to his position, and around whom continued glories gracefully clustered, until death terminated his brilliant career, on the ever memorable battle-field of ANTIETAM, Sept. 17, 1862.

*Resolved*, That in this dispensation of Divine Providence our country has lost a brave and earnest defender, whose steadfast and courageous demeanor before the enemy commanded the admiration of all; one that shed his blood willingly, knowing that it was in a Righteous Cause, and whose motto ever was, "Peace, while the Rebellion breathes, is dishonor." His conduct was always such as to do honor to himself and honor to his country, and while we mourn his loss and deeply sympathize with his bereaved friends, he is entitled to a nation's gratitude.

*Resolved*, That a copy of these Resolutions be transmitted to the family of the deceased, and to the Norwich Bulletin for publication.

J. EDWARD WARD, *President*.

HENRY C. HALL, *Secretary*.

The following resolutions were passed by the class of '64, of Union College.

At a meeting of the class of '64, of Union College, held Oct. 1, 1862, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

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\* The regiment was in an unsettled condition for many days after the battle, therefore the adoption of these Resolutions was necessarily deferred till Oct. 10th.





WHEREAS, It has pleased God in His all-wise providence to remove from our midst a beloved classmate, MARVIN WAIT, First Lieutenant Eighth Regiment Connecticut Volunteers, who, at the battle of Antietam, fighting in behalf of his country, fell gallantly defending the flag we all love, therefore,

*Resolved*, That we tender our warmest sympathies to his bereaved family, and as they have lost a beloved son and brother, so we mourn the loss of a beloved classmate, whom to know was to love and respect.

*Resolved*, That as a token of respect, we wear the usual badge of mourning for the space of thirty days.

*Resolved*, That a copy of these Resolutions be published in the Schenectady Star and Times, and a copy of the same be sent to the family of the deceased.

CHARLES H. TILLINGHAST,	} Committee.
EDWARD B. MAGOUN,	
J. ELDER RALSTON,	

ELISHA CURTIS, *Secretary*.

D. VAN HOME, *President*.

*From the Norwich Bulletin.*

#### **Funeral Ceremonies of Lieut. Marvin Wait.**

The funeral of Lieutenant WAIT was very numerous attended, notwithstanding the unpleasantness of the day. There were private services at the house in the forenoon. The exercises at the church in the afternoon commenced at half past two. The coffin was placed in the vestibule of the church, draped with the stars and stripes, and decorated with flowers. On it also were placed a sword and cap, the equipments of his rank. The exercises at the church commenced with the singing of a voluntary by the choir, followed by the reading of the Scriptures by the Rev. Dr. Bond, and a prayer by the Rev. Mr. Arms. After the singing of a hymn, a short address commemorative of the life and services of Lieutenant WAIT, was delivered by Geo. Pratt, Esq., of this city. After alluding to the personal qualities of the deceased, to his kindly heart, his genial disposition, his warm and friendly nature, which made him beloved and popular among all his associates, of his intellectual qualities, which promised so well for the future, the speaker enlarged upon his career as a soldier, of the honor he had won, of the lasting fame that would be his. And speaking of the battle in which he died and the noble part taken by Connecticut regiments, the address concluded as follows:

And now, what more can I say? What words can add beauty to such a life, or what praise ennoble such a death? When we think of those who fell on that field, we count them all heroes—we name them all among the brave.

"They died like heroes, for no recreant step  
Had e'er dishonored them, no stain of fear,  
No base despair, no cowardly recoil:  
They had the hearts of freemen to the last,  
And the free blood that bounded in their veins  
Was shed for freedom with a liberal joy."

Yes, the names of those who fell will be handed down with imperishable glory and lasting fame. Our children's children shall rise up and call them blessed, for



they died fighting on the side of the Right, in a contest between Right and Wrong.

Who would not be proud to be one of such a brave and immortal band? Who would not be prouder still that where all were so brave, the one they loved became conspicuous for bravery? Such honor, rarely achieved, this young hero won. All alike, officers and soldiers, speak of his dauntless and conspicuous courage. All tell of the way his brave and animating voice rang through the ranks of the men, urging them on to victory. A century, had he lived so long, would have brought him no prouder moment in which to die. Dying, as he did, on the banks of that little creek, then unknown, now immortal, he becomes for us and ours, forever a name and a memory.

True, he lies here, unheeding all our praises, silent and cold in death. But what a sweet and inexpressible consolation it is to the living, that the one whom they mourn died honorably and gloriously. A long life, uneventful and insignificant, is for the many; a glorious death, a lasting and honorable memory is the boon of but a few.

To-day his native town writes him among her list of heroes; his native State does him honor in the person of her Chief Magistrate; the nation thanks his memory as one among those who saved her in the hour of peril. Such honor as we can pay is now his. We bury him here, far away from the field of his fame, in the midst of the scenes he loved so well; knowing this, that although we may die and be forgotten, his name shall be honored and remembered, and as we lay him to rest, our hearts, one and all, say, "Brave spirit, noble young heart, farewell!"

The exercises at the church being concluded, the body was escorted to the grave by the Norwich Light Infantry, preceded by the band, and a long procession of carriages accompanying. At the grave Gov. Buckingham made some touching remarks, enlarging upon the bravery of Lieutenant WAIT, and speaking of his own personal feeling toward those officers and soldiers that he had been instrumental in sending forth to the war. He spoke of the glory of dying for such a cause, and especially in such a contest as he died who was then committed to the grave.

The Company then fired three volleys over his grave, the benediction was pronounced by the Rev. Mr. Arms, and the impressive ceremony was over. The assemblage was very large at the funeral. The sympathy felt for the family in this their great affliction, has been, and is, deep and wide-spread. The Mayor and Common Council of the city attended in a body, and the field and line officers of the Twenty-sixth Regiment were also present.\*

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\* Resolutions, expressing a high regard for the deceased, and profound sympathy for the bereaved family, were passed by the "Common Council" of Norwich.





## ELEGY.

*(Lieut. Marvin Wait fell in the battle of Antietam.)*

BY ROBERT BLANC.

His gallant young spirit, so ardent and bold,  
 Forth has gone on its long march eternal,  
 And the warm, beating heart is now dead, still and cold,  
 That o'erran with all feelings fraternal.

The eye that was lighted with honor and truth,  
 And often with love and devotion,  
 Is cold as the sod that has covered his youth,  
 And dark as the depths of the ocean.

His smooth boyish cheek, where the summer's warm breath  
 Had left but the faintest of traces,  
 Is pale as the snow at the cold touch of death,  
 And bereft of its blossoming graces.

He was youthful in years, but let justice be done  
 To the spirit high daring and tender ;  
 His country can honor, 'mid all her brave sons,  
 No bolder and truer defender.

Where the iron hail flew like a tempest of wrath,  
 He stood with the battle storm round him ;  
 Where blood, shed like rain, made a dark, gory path,  
 The death that had sought him there found him.

It found him—it smote him—Oh ! God, that thine arm  
 Had stretched forth a shield and a shelter,  
 To ward from his person all evil and harm—  
 Left there on the red field to welter.

Bear him back from the field where he gallantly fell,  
 To the shade of the hills of his childhood ;  
 Through the boughs of the maple let symphonies swell  
 O'er his grave by the green spreading wild-wood.

And the mountain brooks dashing so swiftly along,  
 As to listening willows they prattle,  
 Shall chant, as they go, the sad requiem song  
 Of the soldier who sleeps from Life's battle. *New York Atlas.*

Thus have I endeavored to honor aright the noble spirit, and to carefully record the heroic deeds of a kind companion and true patriot. The sacrifice which he made was precious, invaluable ; it was not in vain. Our best and bravest sons have cheerfully endured privations, wounds ; they have met death with sublime calm-



ness and devotion, that others, in the present and future, may live in security, and enjoy the blessings of Civil and Religious Liberty. The names, the deeds, the graves of our patriot dead are sacred—they are the nation's heritage and honor.

Sorrowing hearts and desolate homes are the immediate results of this gigantic struggle; but individual blessing, State integrity, national honor and security, renovation and rejoicing throughout the world, under God's guidance and blessing, will be the ultimate, enduring fruits.

The men who have held domestic comforts and the endearments of home subordinate to their duty to country in this hour of national peril, are the noblest, the immortal benefactors of the human race. They will have lived, acted, died, in the world's greatest and grandest era. Such men may sink to gory graves, but they will be remembered, emulated, honored, in all time. The injured and wronged in all lands will draw moral inspiration from their self-devotion and sacrifice for Liberty, Justice, Right.

I would close with a few inadequate words of sympathy and kindly regard for the beloved and bereaved family from whose happy circle a dear son and brother has been early removed. A life of unusual promise met with a violent but sublime termination. You have laid a precious offering upon the patial altar. Let this recollection mitigate your sorrow, and in the Divine Father, "who giveth songs in the night," may you find adequate consolation and rest of soul.





The authors, Mary Jane Springman and Alan Lahue, wrote in the book *Images of America-Simsbury* for the Simsbury Historical Society a short story about the founding of the O. C. Case G. A. R. Camp on Page 79:

“Patriotic sentiment remained strong after the war. In 1866 Union veterans organized the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) and, in 1881 formed the Sons of Veterans of the United States of America to carry on the GAR’s traditions. Simsbury started a local branch, the **Oliver C. Case Camp**, in February 1890.”

A short article on the internet about the History of Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War states:

“The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War was a creation of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) which was formed in 1866. Wanting to pass on its heritage, the GAR in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania created a Corps of Cadets in 1878 which later became the Sons of Veterans of the United States of America (SV). This latter organization was formed in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on November 12, 1881. The SV units functioned much as National Guard units....”

In the photograph of the members accompanying the *Images of America* story it points out a young man, Burton Case, standing, “at the far left on the back row....” A Burton Grove Case, the son of Alonzo Grove [Oliver C. Case’s brother] and Julia S. Chaffee Case may be the Burton Case in the photograph. He was born in 1872 and would have been about 18 in 1890 when the O. C. Case Camp was formed. Burton died in 1918. Out of respect for his uncle, Oliver, Burton may have become a member of the O. C Camp.

The Springman and Lahue story continues, “Five years later, on July 4, 1895, the town dedicated a monument in Weatogue to its Civil War veterans”

A lengthy newspaper article dated July 5, 1895 appearing in the Hartford Courant entitled *Simsbury War Heroes, Monument Dedicated at Weatogue* is about the ceremony dedicating the “Handsome Memorial to the Soldiers from Simsbury.”

The opening statement about the program was described as: “Patriotic speeches and singing in the rain-a large gathering and interesting occasion.”

“Weatogue (Simsbury) was alive with patriotism and aglow with enthusiasm yesterday except that the threatening skies in the morning and the heavy rain in the afternoon had the effect of limiting the attendance and dampening somewhat the festive appearance of the picturesque part of Simsbury.”

“The occasion was the dedication and unveiling of the soldiers’ monument which stands on the green near the station of the New Haven & Northampton Railroads, facing the road leading from Simsbury to Avon. In spite of the threatening weather about 2,000 people from the surrounding country gathered on the green at the exercises which took place at 2 o’clock....”

“Previous to the exercises there was a parade of the old soldiers though the principal streets of the place, led by Collinsville Band ... The organization participating were, Joseph H. Toy Post, No. 83, G.A. R., Simsbury Commander L. W. Bigelow; Burnside Post, G.A.R., No. 40, of



Unionville; Edward H. Lee Post, No. 76, G.A.R. of New Hartford; **Oliver C. Case, Sons of Veterans of Simsbury**, Captain McNulty; ... And about fifty members of Robert O. Tyler Post, No. 50, G.A.R. of Hartford.”

There was singing, speeches, band playing and cannons booming all as a part of the ceremony. Then the monument was unveiled by Mrs. Florence L. Hayden, president of the department of Connecticut Women’s Relief Corps. She spoke about Simsbury men in various wars including men in the war of the revolution when “120 men were raised in Simsbury and marched to the battle of Bunker Hill, and about 900 men from Simsbury served during the war.” One of these men who was at Bunker Hill was **Job Case**.

“The Monument is a handsome square shaft of granite resting on a base eight feet square and surmounted by the figure of a soldier, six feet high, standing at parade rest. The total height of the monument is twenty feet”.... And the cost was \$3,500.

“The monument bears on the northeast side the following inscription: Erected to the memory of Union Soldiers In the war of Rebellion, 1861-1865”

On the southeast face are carved the names of fifteen officers in the war who were natives of Simsbury or went from that town and on the other two faces are the names of 180 enlisted men of similar record.” One name of the enlisted men was **Oliver Cromwell Case** who was killed by the Rebels at the Battle of Antietam, Maryland on September 17, 1862.

The officers are as follows:

General Thomas Scott Mather, Colonel John S. Phelps, Major Moses E. St. John, Captains Joseph R. Toy, Lucius G. Goodrich, Chaplain Horace Winslow, Surgeon Wharton H. Godard, First Lieutenants **Alonzo G. Case**, John W. Phelps, Robert T. Duncan, Goltlieb Hilderbrand, Second Lieutenants **Ariel J. Case**, David H. Holmes, George McKew, William E. Carr.

The Committee having charge of the building of the monument was the following, The Rev. Horace Winslow, formerly chaplain of the Fifth Regiment Connecticut Volunteers, John W. Phelps, **Alonzo G. Case**, **John E. Case**, Gavette Holcombe.

The newspaper article about the dedication of the monument was furnished by the Simsbury Historical Society, Simsbury, Connecticut and was received July 7, 2017. The book *Images of America-Simsbury* with the article about the founding of the O. C. Case Post was purchased from the Simsbury Historical Society, Simsbury, Connecticut by the author.







# CIVIL WAR MONUMENT

DEDICATED TO ALL VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR (1861-1865) WHO FOUGHT TO PRESERVE THIS GREAT REPUBLIC. ESPECIALLY HONOR IS PAID TO THE 37 MEN FROM SIMSBURY WHO SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES TO ACHIEVE THIS PURPOSE.

PVT	THOMAS B. ANDRUS	PVT	WILLIAM MAHAR
PVT	CURTIS BACON	PVT	FELIX C. MAINE
PVT	ROBERT BALLENTINE	PVT	LUCIUS F. MARKS
PVT	ORLANDO BRINGMID	SGT	JAMES MCKINNEY
PVT	DUWAINE BROWN	EVT	JOHN MEAL
PVT	ALBERT CANN	CPL	EDWARD D. PAIN
PVT	HOSEA E. CASE	PVT	TROWBRIDGE PR
PVT	OLIVER C. CASE	PVT	GEORGE A. SHEP
PVT	ELISHA CLEVELAND	PVT	MILES D. SHEPAR
PVT	JAMES CRUGAN	PVT	RICHARD SIZER
BURGEON	WHARTON H. GODARD	PVT	GUSTAVUS STRA
PVT	EDWARD GORMAN	SGT	THOMAS E. TAL
PVT	LUCIUS E. HOLCOMB	PVT	CHARLES TENCE
PVT	CHARLES HUDSON	CPL	SAMUEL TAYLO
PVT	WILLIAM JACKSON	CPT	JOSEPH R. TOY
WAGONER	CHRISTOPHER C. JOHNSON	PVT	LEROY TULLER
CPL	WILLIAM JOHNSON	PVT	JAMES WELLS
PVT	JOHN JONES	PVT	ORVIL M. WIL
CPL	JOHN R. KILBOURN		

DEDICATED: JULY 3, 1995

MARY GLASSMAN  
FIRST SELECTMAN

PAUL J. DLUBAC III  
CO-CHAIRMAN

ROBERT B. ...  
CO-CHAIRMAN

FUNDS PROVIDED BY THE ENSIGN-BICKFORD FOUNDATION



Start Editing  
@ ch 10



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**SIMSBURY - FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST - 01.jpg**





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**SIMSBURY - FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST - 01.jpg**





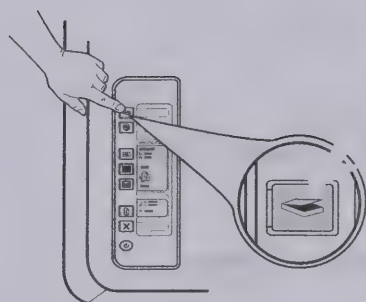
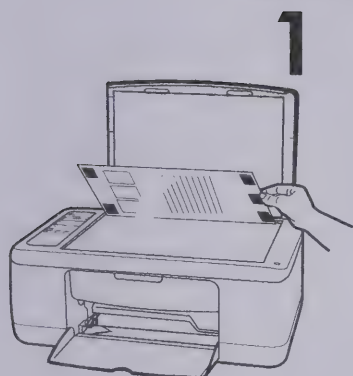
16	Case, Edmund	Union	Infantry	3rd Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
17	Case, Edward W.	Union	Infantry	25th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
18	Case, Egbert H.	Union	Infantry	10th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
19	Case, Elias	Union	Infantry	12th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
20	Case, Ellsworth	Union	Infantry	13th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
21	Case, Elmer	Union	Infantry	10th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
22	Case, Frederick A.	Union	Infantry	14th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
23	Case, George A.	Union	Infantry	5th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
24	Case, George R.	Union	Infantry	1st Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
25	Case, George R.	Union	Infantry	10th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
26	Case, George R.	Union	Infantry	13th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
27	Case, George W.	Union	Infantry	7th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
28	Case, George W.	Union	Infantry	15th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
29	Case, Horace O.	Union	Infantry	25th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
30	Case, Hosea E.	Union	Infantry	16th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
31	Case, James	Union	Infantry	13th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
32	Case, James C.	Union	Infantry	20th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry



33	Case, Jason	Union	Infantry	8th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
34	Case, John	Union	Infantry	11th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
35	Case, John	Union	Infantry	24th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
36	Case, John E.	Union	Infantry	16th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
37	Case, John P.	Union	Infantry	2nd Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
38	Case, John P.	Union	Infantry	26th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
39	Case, Joseph	Union	Infantry	5th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
40	Case, Joseph	Union	Infantry	22nd Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
41	Case, Levi H.	Union	Infantry	12th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
42	Case, Lowell M.	Union	Infantry	16th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
43	Case, Lucien F.	Union	Infantry	16th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
44	Case, Lucien T.	Union	Infantry	16th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
45	Case, Marshall W.	Union	Infantry	25th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
46	Case, Mather	Union	Infantry	6th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
47	Case, Oliver C.	Union	Infantry	8th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
48	Case, Orrin S.	Union	Infantry	22nd Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
49	Case, Orville I.	Union	Infantry	16th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry







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Eseguire la scansione del foglio per allineare le cartucce

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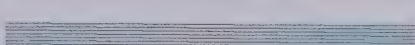
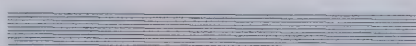
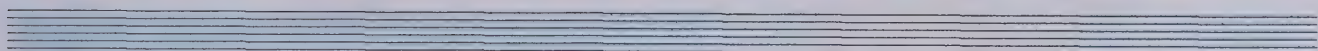
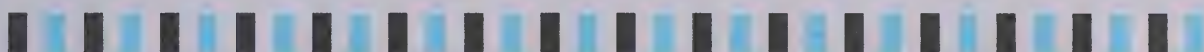
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カートリッジを調整するには、このシートをスキャンします。

전체 사진 보기 용지를 스캔하여 카트리지를 정렬합니다.

扫描本页以校准墨盒。



The following is a copy of a four page letter written by Oliver Cromwell Case in his own handwriting on December 15, 1861 addressed to his brother Ariel Job Case written from Annapolis, Maryland as follows:

*To A. J. Case, Esq.*

*Hartford, Conn.*

Letter received June 7, 2010 from:  
Connecticut Historical Society—  
Museum and Library, 1 Elizabeth Street,  
Hartford, Ct. 06105

Letter Written by Oliver C. Case to Dear Brother

Annapolis Dec 15<sup>th</sup> 1861

Dear Brother

I rec'd the long  
expected box of Thanksgiving  
dinner yesterday the 14<sup>th</sup> of Dec.  
Of course every thing with the excep-  
tion of the walnuts & Chestnuts  
(which we are feasting upon today)  
are spoiled. They are nice & we are  
enjoying them ~~to the uttermost~~  
with (a will). I write this too  
you thinking that perhaps you can  
get the pay for the expressage re-  
turned to you. I forgot to mention  
that there was a few apples that  
were not decayed but most of  
them were gone in. It did  
me good to look at the chicken  
pie ~~which~~<sup>which</sup> chicken pudding &c &c  
if they were mouldy.





Al. Thomas one of my tent mates who opened the box says while "That I tasted of every thing in the box & it was all very nice but getting <sup>rather</sup> old" I tasted of a little piece of the chicken pie crust which ~~tasted~~ <sup>was</sup> quite nice. The dishes will be very handy for us to use. Broatch wishes to be remembered to you. He is sleeping with us now.

Mrs W P Marsh arrived at camp yesterday. Corporal Porter brother has been helping the Lieut. move over his tent & fix it up so that it would be in good style when his wife arrived. Lieut Hoyt is with the patrol so that Lieut Marsh has got every thing his own way. Corporal Porter has been sick a long time



with camp fever. He is im-  
proving slowly but has a hard cough.  
It will be a long time before  
he fully recovers. His brother  
~~has~~ been here nearly a week  
& is going to stay until he gets  
well or is discharged. I see  
by the Hartford papers that  
we are expected to leave soon  
but we hear nothing about it  
here. We had brigade review  
Friday & division inspection  
yesterday. In the former there  
was 4 regiments in the latter  
11. It is said that Col. Harland  
wants to spend the winter here  
& Gov. Hicks is using his in-  
fluence to have us stay & I don't  
think that between them both  
we shall make out to spend  
the winter here. I receive  
Hartford papers nearly every





day. I am now just well  
enough to be upon duty. I have  
not done anything before for some  
time but now I am as smart  
as ever. Rumor that  
the negroes have burnt  
Charleston. Good

Remember me to all enquiring  
friends. Excuse writing as my  
hand trembles.

From your Brother

A. A. Case

To A. A. Case Esq  
Hartford Conn



they were good in their day but their flavor was rather strong when [they] opened the box.” (15)

“Corp. Porter ... has been sick for the last three or four weeks with camp fever. It has been pretty hard run with him but I think he is getting better, although he has a very hard cough.” Oliver says that Porter’s brother is in camp and hopes to take him home when he gets stronger.

Camp Fever during the Civil War included symptoms of pronounced chill followed by intermittent fever, abdominal tenderness and nausea, general debility, diarrhea and furring of the tongue.

Writing again about leaving camp he says, “I suppose that we shall leave here between now and the first of January or, if not, by the 10th.”

“Charleston burnt. Hurrah for that. England and France are going to acknowledge the independence of the Southern Confederacy. All right, we can whip them all.”

“I received a letter from Ariel today ... Lieutenant Marsh wrote to him that I had gone to the hospital with an attack of fever and ague. Oliver talks about his illness, “I had two good shakes and they gave me spirits of turpentine and broke it up. I had to take quinine for three or four days and then was discharged as well as ever. That was all the sickness amounted to.”

“Remember me to all” is his closing for this letter.

Still in Annapolis on **December 17** he writes, “I have just received a carpet bag of goodies ... and I can assure you if ever anything was welcome that was. The things were good, better, best. Those nut cakes tasted like home and were better. The cranberries, cider and wine were just what I wanted .... In fact, everything hit just the spot.”

“I have been drilling two days since I was sick and now I am as well as ever.” (16)

“Mrs. Lieut. Marsh [who had recently arrived] offers to mend any clothes for the soldiers that they wish. I think she may have some sewing for a day or two.”

Oliver mentions that the orderly is in camp even though he does no duty. He says, “there is no doubt but that he will resign before we leave here but when I know not. Of course, there is a good deal of speculation as to who will be 2<sup>nd</sup> lieut. We of course all have our preferences but time will determine who has succeeded in getting the post.”

“I have just been sent to see the Sheriff and the Major off. I never saw L. G. [Goodrich] as sociable before. He had been to the 10<sup>th</sup> Regt. to see the boys; says they are in the best of spirits.”

Oliver begins to talk about their Lieut. Col. “[He] is soon to resign. I hope it is true,” Oliver says, “for he does not now, nor ever did and I think never will learn about the military. He is the laughing stock of the brigade when he tries to drill the Regt. There are very few orders that he can give correctly. If Col. should get the post of Brig. Gen. and our Lieut. Col. resign, the command would devolve [to pass on as responsibility or power] upon the Major, who is a thorough bred military man as well as a perfect gentleman. The boys will go through anything with him to lead them.” (16)

Once again, “Benjah is in our tent writing,” he says. “Gavette can not be hired to enlist.”

“I reckon that you will have studies a plenty this winter although French will not come very hard if you understand Latin pretty well.”







The 8th Regiment CVI is still in Annapolis on **December 21**, Oliver writes to his sister and says, "The boys are nearly all gone gathering evergreen to trim the streets as Gen. Burnside is going to inspect the camp today. Gen. Burnside reviewed the whole division yesterday consisting of 12,000 men. We were reviewed the day before by the Brigadiers so that by all appearances we shall leave for *Dixie* (italics added) before many weeks. The 11 th Conn. arrived yesterday and went to camp above us near the 10th. They were a very good looking Regt. indeed. I did not see anyone in the ranks that I knew."

Once again he talks about leaving. He says, "the transports and steamers are lying in the bay ready to carry us at anytime that we get orders."

"We have been flooring over part of our tent and dug the dirt away in front of it so as to make a good place to sit upon. Our tent at present is as convenient as any house. I tell you we live like kings."





Oliver explains about newspapers, "I receive papers everyday or two from Ariel ... but I should like the *Weekly Press* as well as any, as it contains the local news as well as the others."

"Tell grandmother that I have enough to eat, and rest as well as at home, that it is not as hard work as working on the farm .... It is as warm as summer here except the nights which are chilly but I have seen no frost here yet. I ... received six letters and six papers in that time so you see I am kept quite well posted about things in *Old Conn.*" (italics added)

"The brigade will probably leave in the course of a week whether with or without our regiment we know not, probably shall not until the day they leave. The war news is cheering and our boys will feel slighted if they do not go south with the brigade... and share their glory. The boys of your acquaintance were all well.... Give my love to all inquiring friends."

The speculation of when they might move must have been a soldier's way of passing time. They remained in Annapolis until the middle of January.

Oliver writes a letter from Camp Burnside, Annapolis on **November 28, 1861**. He says, "the camp is situated 1 ½ miles from our quarters" ... He goes on to tell Abbie that the camp is filling up with soldiers, 1,200 Calvary and 800 Zouaves [a military unit adopting the dress (bright uniforms) and drill (quick spirited) of the Zouaves] having arrived within the last week. They are from New York."

"Part of the Calvary have (sic) left for Fort Monroe and others are expected to leave soon." Once again he writes about the uncertainty of when his Regiment will leave, "We shall probably leave in the course of 2 weeks but may leave any day, or we may stay 6 weeks.... Major Hathaway arrived here yesterday from Washington. He left on the 3 PM train for the north. I saw him a short time before he started. He told me he was going to be at L. G. Goodrich's for Thanksgiving. He says he shall be here again in two weeks if we do not leave before that time...."

"It has been rumored that we shall spend the winter here but the last rumor is that the 51 st N. Y. is the one to be left. If they stay, I guess the citizens will get enough of the soldiers before winter is over for they are the hardest set of boys that are encamped here .... Nine tenths of the arrests we make are of that 51 st Regiment."

"We are treated with much respect by the citizens and they often send in some shortcakes, gingersnaps, cookies etc.; of course, only a bite for each but enough to know that we have their good will.... When we first came here they were shy of us always avoiding us if possible, but now they are quite familiar with us at almost anytime. The soldiers that had been here before were a pretty rough set. It is reported that a letter that the people of this place had sent to Gen. Burnside requesting him to let us stay here this winter."

"The time is set for next Thursday when we may be paid and then again we may not. I shall not write again until I get paid off as I shall have used up all the stamps you sent me."

The weather is quite cold so that it froze a little last night. We have much wet weather but thanks to our rubber blankets we keep dry."

It must have been very discouraging for some with the uncertainty if they were to stay or go, if they would be paid or not and the weather is always a problem for a soldier. Oliver seems to take it all in stride.







as he is finishing his letter he says, "I have just stopped writing to get some Ginger Snaps that a Negro women is giving the boys. They are excellent." He closes this letter by sending his respects "to all inquiring friends."

Next he writes a short note on **December 10** from Annapolis. Oliver writes, "I was not feeling well .... The next day I was excused from drill by the surgeon and about noon was taken with a chill and went to the hospital where I have had as good accommodations as could be, good beds and clothes, and everything as comfortable as at home. I am now well except [I am] weak and as it is pleasant day the nurse let me walk out a little while. It is as warm as summer." He closes with, "Respect to all."

Again his next letter is sent from Annapolis on **December 13**. He tells Abbie he received her letter of December 10 last evening and that he was surprised to think that she had not heard from him for such a long time. Also, he did receive her letter of the first but did not feel well that night and being chilly the next day he went to the hospital, "... it being very comfortable there. It is supplied with good bedding, two good stoves, a tight floor and is almost as comfortable as it would be at home. I was discharged from there yesterday morning." He explains she should not be worried about him if she does not receive letters regularly "for the mails are very irregular."

Oliver begins to talk to her about school. "I see ... that you are attending school in Weatogue .... That is what I should have advised you to do, so as to review the new books that they have now in the town of S[imsbury] as well as to continue your studies in Algebra and Latin or, if not French. If you want money to buy books take what I have in the bank or any other of mine and use it. I shall probably send home about \$30.00 the first of January. That you can have."

"There is some speculation as to who will be our 2 nd Lieutenant.... Some say the Captain is calculating to get the orderly into that position but that will never work here because he is about played out."

An Orderly was a type of assistant for an officer. In addition to being a sort of body guard, they would run personal errands and look after the officer's personal effects.

Speaking about a soldier that Abbie had inquired about ... "He (Barnum) was pretty small potatoes anyway. All that was the matter with him was that he was *scared* nearly to death and he feigned sickness that he might get a discharge. He was discharged in Jamaica, for a milk and water man is no good to the army."

Once again Oliver's friend Benejah is in the tent while he is writing this letter. "He has been over here to shirk drill this morning."

Oliver again writes about speculation on when they might leave. He says, "It looks now as if we should not leave here for some time to come but we cannot tell; we are liable to leave here any moment; that is to have marching orders any day." He closes with "Love and respects to all."

On **December 16** he writes his sister again from Annapolis and says, "I received the long expected Thanksgiving dinner Saturday. The chicken looked rather old although I tasted a few pieces near the inside that were good. The walnuts, chestnuts and some of the apples were nice and we have been having quite a feast.... [My] tent mate that



